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Review body accused of U-turn in proposing performance-related awards

Exam results may govern teachers' pay

BY MATTHEW D'ANCONA
EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

TEACHERS' pay will be directly linked to "crude" criteria such as the academic performance of the individual schools for which they work, if recommendations published yesterday by the School Teachers' Review Body are implemented in the promised shake-up of the education system.

The review body's briefing paper, which is being circulated for consultation, calls for cash bonuses to be paid to those schools whose performance improves from one year to the next, a first step towards the performance-related pay (PRP) structure dreaded by teachers' unions. Last night,

critics described the report as the work of a "government puppet" which had performed a dramatic U-turn over the criteria needed to assess schools. Under the proposals, awards would be made on the basis of overall school achievement but the paper also suggests, more contentiously, that each staff member could be rewarded by governors according to individual contribution, and that incompetent teachers might not receive any extra payment from a school's bonus.

The review body concedes that its proposed criteria for awards are "crude" but hopes they will serve as "an acceptable basis for future refinement". Improvements would be measured using standard indicators available through the parent's

charter, such as exam results, national curriculum assessments, truancy rates, and the destination of school-leavers. Schools would be also penalised for poor teacher attendance or a high rate of pupil exclusions. The paper recommends that the size of bonuses should be linked to the extent of improvement, as well as the starting-point from which the improvement is made. A limited share of each award would be allocated to the improvement of school facilities, although most would be used to top up teachers' pay.

Further centralisation of the education service is strongly hinted at in the proposals. Although councils would exercise discretion in the award of top-up payments to local-authority schools, opted-out schools

would receive their bonuses directly from Whitehall or the new funding council which is expected to emerge from this summer's education white paper.

A final report is expected to recommend pilot schemes in schools early next year. The review body, set up soon after John Major became prime minister, awarded teachers an unexpectedly generous pay rise of 7.5 per cent earlier this year, but teachers' unions have consistently argued that its true agenda is to usher in PRP.

Doug McAvoy, general secretary of the National Union of Teachers, said yesterday that the review body was embracing criteria for PRP which it had questioned five months ago: "Factors which it rejected as inadequate as a basis for determining

performance are now proposed as factors for use. A commitment to take appropriate account of variations in school intakes is now dropped. The review body is now dancing to the government's tune."

The briefing paper, he said, proposed that additional funds for the bonus scheme should be made available only in its early stages, which would then have to be matched from existing school resources. "The fundamental approach is one which would favour those schools which are more advantageously financed to begin with."

Nigel de Gruchy, general secretary of the National Association of Schoolmasters, said yesterday: "Factors which it rejected as inadequate as a basis for determining

Wait for degrees, page 5

Mortgage rate rise blamed on Treasury

BY PHILIP WEBSTER AND LINDSAY COOK

ONE of Britain's biggest building societies embarrassed the government yesterday by raising interest rates and then blaming the Treasury for the increase.

The government, relieved at having apparently avoided an early increase in interest rates, was shaken as the Chelsea & Gloucester lifted its basic home loans rate to 10.99 per cent from 10.75 per cent. A run of mortgage rate increases is the last thing ministers want as they try to calm fears about the slowness of the recovery.

Their discomfort was increased when the society, the sixth largest, blamed the high savings returns from the new national savings bond, offering

ing basic-rate taxpayers 7.75 per cent after tax, guaranteed for a year. The savings bond, introduced to help fund public borrowing, could rebound badly on the government. If other societies were to follow the C&G, the housing market revival that is so vital to the recovery might be put back. MFs have already voiced anxiety that the re-imposition of stamp duty on house purchases next month could further discourage home-buyers.

The C&G's move came as the Bundesbank's decision on Thursday not to raise its key interest rate, stepped up warnings against devaluation of the pound and a realignment of currencies within the European exchange-rate mechanism. Sir Norman Fowler, Conservative chairman, said ministers would not throw away hard-won gains to achieve a "quick fix" when the prize of permanently low inflation was within their grasp.

The Chelsea & Gloucester is the first society to raise rates since 1990, when the Abbey National led the way, again because of competition for savers — on that occasion from the High Street banks. This time other lenders say they have no immediate plans to follow suit, but are watching whether their savers withdraw money. Last week the Woolwich and the Nationwide said mortgages might have to rise in the face of the competition from National Savings.

Explaining his society's decision, the C&G chief executive, Andrew Longhurst said: "The government has pitched High Street interest rates at a new level with its latest National Savings account and C&G cannot allow its own investors to be left behind."

When the government launched the bond, it said it wanted to compete with building societies, but not drain them of funds. Yesterday the Treasury defended its strategy, saying: "National Savings rate is not the highest on the market. We took account of what rates were being offered on the market and it was pitched at a level we knew was not the highest. It is a competitive market but we would not have set a level that would obviously force others to go up."

Labour said the action by C&G was a "quick fix" but would not be permanent. Continued on page 20, col 6

Rate rise, page 21



Battle dress: Douglas Hurd, in a bullet-proof vest, accompanied by President Iztbegovic of Bosnia on a walk in Sarajevo yesterday

Bosnians agree to ceasefire

BY EVE-ANN PRENTICE

BOSNIA'S fighting factions yesterday agreed to begin a 14-day ceasefire tomorrow and to put their heavy weapons under UN supervision. Leaders of the Serb, Muslim and Croat communities declared they would not break the truce, "even in response to provocation".

The agreement came after nearly three days of EC-sponsored talks in London, under the chairmanship of Lord Carrington. "I have been responsible for a number of ceasefires and most of them have broken down," he said. "But I think this one will be different because of the agreement on heavy weapons."

Bosnia's Muslim foreign minister, Haris Silajdzic, the Serb leader, Dr Radovan Karadzic, and the Croat representative, Mate Boban, promised to allow all refugees to return to their towns and villages. The Bosnian leaders, who negotiated through the Portuguese diplomat Jose Cutileiro, will gather in London again on July 27 for talks on a constitution.

Bosnia ceasefire, page 13

Pinstripes go into the firing line

Douglas Hurd yesterday ventured into the war zone of Sarajevo. Michael Binon went with him

bullets littered the ground. Notices and departure boards smashed by earlier battles, recalled the days when thousands of tourists arrived here for the Winter Olympics. A row of armoured cars, tanks and jeeps were drawn up on the tarmac, partly to shelter the UN troops, and partly to escort the convoys of relief trucks into the city.

The night had seen heavy fighting, with tracers arcing across the runway from the

Serbian occupied hills to the south. But news of Mr Hurd's arrival had still the guns for a while, and cloudy weather deterred the snipers. Accompanied by General Lewis Mackenzie, the Canadian commander, he made a quick tour of the hangars, now used as makeshift warehouses for boxes of food and medicine, as well as dormitories for the troops and personnel of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

But it was too dangerous to go behind the concrete back wall of the hangar, where shattered offices offered no protection. Only 100 yards away, across no man's land, stood the blackened

ruins of Dobrinja, the besieged suburb pounded nightly by Serb mortars. Mr Hurd was whisked Continued on page 20, col 8

Pensions appeal

Sir John Cuckney, chairman of The Maxwell Pensioners' Trust, says he is confident he can plug the gap left in the Maxwell pension funds after the late Robert Maxwell stole £450 million. In a letter to *The Times*, Sir John says it is extremely unlikely that the funds lost will be recovered and emphasises the importance of the City restoring its good name by giving cash to the trust.

Sir John also said in an interview that he was pleased with "the expressions of an intention to contribute" he had received so far, but called on more companies to commit themselves.

Letters page 17
Appeal to City, page 21

Faldo record

Nick Faldo, the winner in 1987 and 1990, took a three-stroke lead in the Open golf championship at Muirfield and established a two-round record of 130 after a second round of 64. Pages 57, 58

Degree results

Results from Warwick and Dundee universities will be published on Monday. During the course of the next few weeks, *The Times* will publish university and polytechnic results in full.

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1X

Defeated doctors learn how to stomach failure

BY JEREMY LAURANCE
HEALTH SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

It's an ulcer and if you want a second opinion, it's an ulcer.



TWENTY patients complaining of chronic stomach ache still had good cause to bellyache after 113 different consultant teams had conducted 53 operations and 128 major investigations, at a cost to the NHS of £76,000. They were no better and the doctors were none the wiser.

The sorry saga of a road to non-recovery paved with good intentions — and littered, no doubt, with oaths other than the Hippocratic variety — is told by the authors of a study in the *British Journal of Medical Economics*. Doctors, they say, have to be honest and admit that sometimes there is little they can do for a patient.

Despite hours of medical attention (not included in the estimated cost) the patients remained deeply dissatisfied with the care they had received. More

than a third wanted to change their GP and four out of ten had turned to alternative medicine.

"Patients with chronic abdominal pain have a reputation for being difficult to handle and to treat," said Dr Peter Whorwell, consultant gastroenterologist at the University Hospital of South Manchester. "If they keep coming back you have two options: either discharge them saying there is nothing more that can be done or take the masochistic role. If you take the masochistic role it is tempting to do something every time and you get into a cycle of repetitive tests. But if you enter into a pact with the patient and say there is nothing you can do, then you can see them from time to time to give them moral support."

Nearly three-quarters of the patients had had a hysterectomy and more than half had had at least one exploratory operation on their abdomen. "What

gets these patients down is that people dismiss them for being a nuisance and not seriously ill," Dr Whorwell said. "But they are just as much in need as people who have got cancer. These people go on year after year with the same poor quality of life."

One woman suffered such severe pain she had to take opiates to control it. Dr Whorwell has her admitted to hospital every six months. "It gives her a rest, her husband a rest, we do a blood count to ensure there is nothing dreadful going on and then out she goes again."

The University Hospital has now established a clinic where these patients are seen only by senior doctors. With their experience, the doctors are better able to resist the temptation to repeat tests and can take responsibility for telling patients that they have no physical disease.

More patients complain, page 6

Sri Lanka..!

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Gecas branded a war criminal by libel case judge

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

ANTON GECAS, the former platoon commander of a Lithuanian police battalion under German occupation who settled in Edinburgh after the second world war, was branded a war criminal by a Scottish law lord yesterday.

Mr Gecas, aged 76, lost his £600,000 defamation action in the Court of Session in Edinburgh against Scottish Television, which accused him in a 1987 documentary of involvement in the murder of thousands of Jews.

In a written judgment at the end of a three-month case, Lord Milligan said he was satisfied that Mr Gecas took part in many operations involving the killing of Soviet citizens, including Jews, and that the allegation that he was a mass murderer had been proved. The hearing made Scottish legal history when the court sat in Lithuania to hear evidence.

The outcome of the case will be studied by special Crown Office and Scotland Yard war crimes units set up last year under the War Crimes Act, which extends jurisdiction for crimes committed on foreign soil to those who subsequently have become British citizens.

The Scottish Office said last night: "The lord-advocate is aware of the allegations against Mr Gecas, but the question of a criminal prosecution is a separate matter and is not determined by a decision in the civil court where the issues and the standard of proof are different."

David Jack, Mr Gecas's



Scott: "I have always been confident"



Tomlinson: researched the TV programme

solicitor, said he had discussed the judgment with his client, but refused to comment on Mr Gecas's reaction or disclose his whereabouts. Mr Jack, who said an appeal was being considered, added: "The position is that the judgment is very young. It is very lengthy and we are having to read the thing very carefully."

It is understood that Mr Gecas has no assets and employed his lawyers on a "no-win, no-pay basis." Scottish Television, which is insured against legal action, estimated its costs at £650,000. A spokesman said: "We have not yet decided whether to pursue the matter of costs."

Mr Gecas, of Moston Terrace, Newington, Edinburgh, sued the company after the screening of its documentary *Crimes of War* by reporter Bob Tomlinson. Mr David Scott, the programme's executive producer, said: "I've always been confident of the outcome. *Crimes of War* was made because we felt the public had a right to know that suspected war criminals were living in Britain and, until the film was shown, had no fear of prosecution."

In his 192-page judgment, Lord Milligan said Mr Gecas "participated in many operations involving the killing of innocent Soviet citizens, including Jews, in particular in Belorussia during the last three months of 1941, and in doing so committed war crimes against Soviet citizens who included old men, women and children."

He added: "I further hold it proved that the pursuer [Mr Gecas] was the platoon commander of the 12th Auxiliary Police Service Battalion and that that platoon participated specifically in six operations. It inevitably follows that the pursuer committed war crimes against innocent civilians of all ages and both sexes in the course of these specific operations, it not being in dispute that he was in active command of his platoon throughout the period

mentioned." Lord Milligan said it was unclear what precisely Mr Gecas did on each occasion, but he was in active command of a platoon that participated in war crimes generally, and in several specific operations. He thought it probable the reason why the Lithuanian battalion was moved by the German Command to Minsk was to carry out execution duties.

During the case, Mr Gecas, a retired mine worker, claimed he committed no war crimes and killed no one. In 1941 and 1942 he did not know "terrible atrocities" were taking place in Lithuania and Belorussia. Members of his battalion could have taken part without his knowledge. He spent five days in the witness box, and blamed the KGB for pressing witnesses to make false allegations against him.

The court heard that Mr Gecas served under the Germans when they invaded his country in 1941. He wore a German uniform and won the Iron Cross for fighting the Soviet Union. In 1944 he fought for the Germans in Italy and swapped sides to fight for a free Polish unit, coming to Britain after the war. He was given British nationality without close questioning on his war past.

LITHUANIAN-born Mr Gecas arrived in Britain in 1947, and changed his name from Gecavicius. He was brought to the attention of the British government in October 1986, when he was placed on a list of 17 suspected war criminals handed to the Foreign Office by the Simon Wiesenthal Centre (Michael Horsnell writes).

He was traced to after research by the centre into German archives captured by the Americans at the end of the war, as well as records in Israel and the Soviet Union. A former platoon commander in the 12th Lithuanian Auxiliary Police Battalion, he is believed to have been traced by the Russians when he sent parcels of old clothes to his sister in Lithuania.

Since his case came to light, the number of names put up for investigation by the two war crimes units in England and Scotland has swollen to 355, approximately half of them been put forward by the Simon Wiesenthal Centre. Of these, 250 have been eliminated so far by Scotland Yard in England and by the Crown Office in Scotland, assisted by officers from Lothian and Borders police. There is still no indication when charges might be brought against any of the others.

According to Efraim Zuroff, director of the centre in Jerusalem, the real number of Nazi collaborators who fled to England is at least 500, of whom more than 100 came from Gecas's police battalion. The irony that so far only Anton Gecas has appeared in court - in a libel action brought by him - is not lost on Mr Zuroff.

He said by telephone from Jerusalem yesterday: "We anticipate and hope that Gecas will be indicted. We want to see him brought to trial."



War criminal: Anton Gecas after losing his £600,000 case yesterday

Enquiry starts into death of joyriders

By LIN JENKINS

THE Police Complaints Authority yesterday launched an investigation into allegations of irregularities by police after two joyriders on a stolen police motor cycle died during a chase.

The announcement of an enquiry came amid concern that the Southwest Regional Crime Squad had acted independently of the local force in breach of established rules. The two men's deaths set off reprisal riots on the Hartcliffe estate, Bristol, on Thursday night, when a gang of 100 people burnt a community centre, smashed windows and looted shops. Police were on standby last night in case of further disorder.

Two detective constables with the regional crime squad have been suspended while the investigation examines how they came to be chasing the stolen 1,000cc BMW unmarked motorcycle, which was fitted with sophisticated surveillance equipment and belonged to the crime squad. The enquiry will also examine whether set procedures were followed and the relationship between the crime squad and

the Avon and Somerset force. Assistant Chief Constable Hugo Pike, of Avon and Somerset, said that the issues under investigation included why the joyriders were pursued by an unmarked motor cycle and an unmarked car both from the crime squad. He said they also wanted to know why the car was on the wrong side of the road and in collision with the stolen bike and if the Avon and Somerset force had been told about the theft and the chase.

Chief Inspector Brian Roebuck, head of Avon and Somerset traffic division, said he had no idea that the chase was taking place. "Obviously, I would prefer to have been told. It would make it a lot easier if the crime squad did not take these things upon themselves. Pursuits are normally the responsibility of uniformed police officers."

The silver motor cycle, used in covert operations, was stolen from a crime squad detective's home in Whitechurch, Bristol, on Wednesday night. The next morning it was spotted by crime squad officers but was "travelling too fast" to be followed.

Just over an hour later it was seen again and an un-

marked crime squad motor cycle gave chase at high speed down Hawkfield Road on the Hartcliffe estate where the stolen machine hit an unmarked green Rover driven by a crime squad detective, Shaun Starr, 32, and Keith Buck, 18, were hurled into the air on impact and died immediately.

Both the crime squad detective constables driving the car and the motor cycle have been suspended from duty. Avon and Somerset police disclosed that they were informed of the chase in a call logged at 12.42pm. A second call, logged a minute later, gave details of the collision and deaths. Captain Noel Taylor, of the Independent Police Complaints Authority, said that the investigation into the circumstances of the tragedy would be conducted thoroughly and quickly. "Avon and Somerset voluntarily referred the incident to us because of matters they consider to be in the public interest," he said. He could not discuss full details because of the possibility of disciplinary action or criminal charges arising from the enquiry.

The crime squad was deeply embarrassed by the theft of the motorcycle. While the surveillance equipment might not have been discovered by the thieves, it would have severely compromised their undercover work had it fallen into the hands of more serious criminals.

Barry Sheerman, MP for Huddersfield and shadow home affairs spokesman, said: "I hope there will be a sharp evaluation of what exactly the crime squad officers were up to. The liaison between the squad and individual forces is usually good, but has obviously broken down on this occasion."

Relationships between the police and the community are good, with initiatives to prevent crime and reduce drug taking and solvent abuse proving successful. "There is very much a sense of shared objectives in the area," John Harland, the deputy chief constable, said.

On Thursday there was an air of disappointment that the estate had been turned down for special funding under the government's City Challenge programme. Most saw that as a greater threat to stability in the area than a minority's outburst of anti-police feeling.

More than 100 wreaths and floral tributes were laid on the spot where the two men died. The one from Mrs Margaret Starr, 62, bore the blunt sentiment: "To my darling son who was murdered on this spot."

Few shared her sentiments. Jeanette Buck, mother of Keith, pleaded with local people not to give vent to their frustration. "It's only an excuse for people here to cause trouble. I don't want Keith remembered this way. I want the violence to stop. I couldn't face another night of that."

Two teenagers arrested on Thursday night appeared before Bristol magistrates yesterday. Barry Carter, 17, of Withwood and Dean Cherry, 19, of Hartcliffe, were both charged with threatening behaviour or using unlawful violence. Both were granted unconditional bail.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Worker wins action over pesticide risk

A man suffering from a rare form of stomach cancer yesterday won a £90,000 out-of-court settlement from his former employer, Rentokil, in what is claimed to have been the first successful claim for compensation for cancer caused by pesticides.

Barry Yates, who lives in Clwyd, North Wales, worked for Rentokil applying the chemicals lindane and petrochlorophenol as part of the company's standard wood-preserving treatments. He started his claim when he was diagnosed as having stomach cancer four years ago. Yesterday his legal representative, Alan Care, called for the chemicals to be banned.

A spokesman for Rentokil said the company objected to the settlement, which had been insisted upon by the company's insurers. Mr Care said: "We have many other claims for compensation pending from other people who have been made ill by these chemicals."

Pindown staff sacked

Barry O'Neill, the former director, and senior management of Staffordshire social services, were blamed yesterday for the notorious pindown scandal in which children were kept in solitary confinement. A report of a special internal disciplinary committee chaired by Alan Levy, QC, found that pindown was based on the "worst elements of institutional control" and that the system was "unethical, unprofessional and unacceptable". Mr O'Neill has already retired. As a result of disciplinary hearings against 12 members of staff, five social workers in managerial positions had been dismissed, two more had resigned before action could be taken against them and one was given a final warning. The remaining four, who were more junior and were unqualified, had been returned to duty.

Man died after errors

A coroner criticised a Coventry hospital for errors that led to the death of a man who had complained of a sore throat. David Sarginson, the city coroner, said standards at Walsgrave Hospital had fallen to an "unacceptably low level" on the day John Wilson, 38, was admitted. Mr Wilson had been examined in a room so small his wife, Diana, had to stand in the doorway. When he collapsed, Mrs Wilson had to run for a nurse, and emergency treatment was hampered by missing staff and equipment. A doctor had produced a scalpel from his pocket as nurses fumbled to find one. Mr Wilson, whose sore throat and breathing difficulties had been caused by a rare blood clot that had occurred normally, died accidentally after a series of errors "all preventable as indeed was his death", the coroner said.

Protest at fish policy

John Major, right, yesterday ran into protest from fishermen when visiting Cornwall, whose economic life depends heavily on their industry. Fishermen oppose the policy of confining them to harbour for a large part of the year, and one expressed his views to the prime minister so volubly that police hauled him away. Mr Major was visiting Penzance to see a ship repair yard that does work for the defence ministry. Angry fishermen from Newlyn greeted him with placards. Jeremy Jones, 27, was bundled away by police. The fishermen were protesting at new fish conservation rules backed by the government that might put them out of business. *Leading article, page 17*



Lorry hit parachutist

A parachutist who died when he was hit by a lorry after landing on a busy dual carriageway probably miscalculated his landing path, an inquest at Ipswich, Suffolk, was told yesterday. Tony Butler, a British Parachute Association technical officer, said that an association board of enquiry could find no fault in the equipment used by Stephen Cole, of Shepherd's Bush, west London. Mr Cole jumped with three friends from 10,000ft aiming to land on a 25-metre target at Ipswich airport. They fell for more than 7,000ft for 50 seconds, practising formations and reaching a speed of 120mph before opening their chutes. But while his colleagues, who were more experienced, landed safely, Mr Cole dropped 720 yards away on the A45 at Nacton. The jury recorded a verdict of death by misadventure.

Bomb hoaxer jailed

An east London man was jailed for four years for a hoax bomb call two days after a bomb attack at London Bridge in February. Bernard Docherty, 42, of Stepney, a former chef, told Scotland Yard he was a member of the IRA and that a device was about to explode at London's Victoria underground station, Southwark Crown Court heard. The operator kept Docherty talking long enough for police to trace his 1.40am call to a telephone box in Bethnal Green and arrest him. Docherty admitted communicating false information with intent. Judge Gerald Butler QC said that people who made hoax bomb calls would inevitably be sent to jail.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

Join the Great Ghost Hunt

A spinechilling competition to keep children (and parents) in suspense during the summer holidays starts tomorrow in *The Sunday Times*. The prize is a luxury trip to Paris and



Euro Disney for a family of four, plus £1,000 spending money. A colourful map of the spookiest spots in Europe holds the key...

Don't miss the start of the ghostly trail, in tomorrow's *Sunday Times*

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THE TIMES SATURDAY JULY 18 1992

Economy car hits world record of over 7,000 mpg

Kevin Eason finds that the motorist's dream of a super economy car is still miles away from reality in the showroom

MOTORISTS whose dream is to make a gallon of petrol last for a year's motoring would envy a team of students from Lycée St Joseph la Joliverie, in Nantes, France, whose car trundled round Silverstone race circuit, Northamptonshire, at an equivalent of 7,591 miles to the gallon, a world economy record.

Their frugal car contrasted with Nigel Mansell's exploits on the same track last week. While the French team managed to put-putt to a top speed of almost 15mph, Mansell averaged 140mph but his Williams Renault gulped fuel down at a gallon every 4.5 miles.

The tiny buggy, looking more like a space age pram than a car, was among challengers competing in the Shell Milage Marathon.

Fuel was measured after a 10-mile run and converted into a miles to the gallon performance figure. The result was a car which could run from London to Moscow and back or cover the average annual mileage for a British motorist on about £2 worth of unleaded petrol. The achievement was remarkable but is unlikely to help scientists offer ordinary motorists such a generous

return from their family saloons.

Fuel economy is the biggest issue facing the motor industry, particularly after the government told motor manufacturers that the 80 miles to the gallon car must be a priority if emissions of carbon dioxide, the main cause of global warming, were to be cut substantially by the end of the century. Congested cities leading to dense pollution could force the European Commission to order manufacturers to produce more economical cars.

However, car makers, who remain convinced that the conventional four-stroke internal combustion engine will provide the power for road vehicles for some time to come, say that they are close to the limits of technology which can improve fuel economy.

Car design has improved so much that nine gallons of petrol which would take an average car 250 miles in 1978 will now manage 307 miles. Lighter materials such as plastic and aluminium are already being used in engines, bodies and interiors while smooth aerodynamic bodies allow cars to cut through the air more effi-

ciently. However, raising average consumption from about 34 miles to the gallon to 80 demands dramatic rethinking which is forcing manufacturers to spend billions of pounds in developing cleaner, more efficient engines.

Manufacturers are working with new fuels to find one that burns more cleanly than petrol. Rover is experimenting with vegetable oils while rape seed oil could provide a clean fuel, as could hydrogen. Development will take years and there is no "quick fix", according to the petrol companies.

However, a Northern Ireland company claims to have developed a device which requires no power source yet which can reduce petrol or

diesel consumption in any car by 20 per cent and toxic emissions by 50 per cent.

The three-inch long device, says McKeown Industries, is a magnet which is strapped to the fuel pipe exerts a "unipolar" field, disturbing fuel molecules as they enter the engine. The result is a more efficient burning of the petrol or diesel in the combustion chamber.

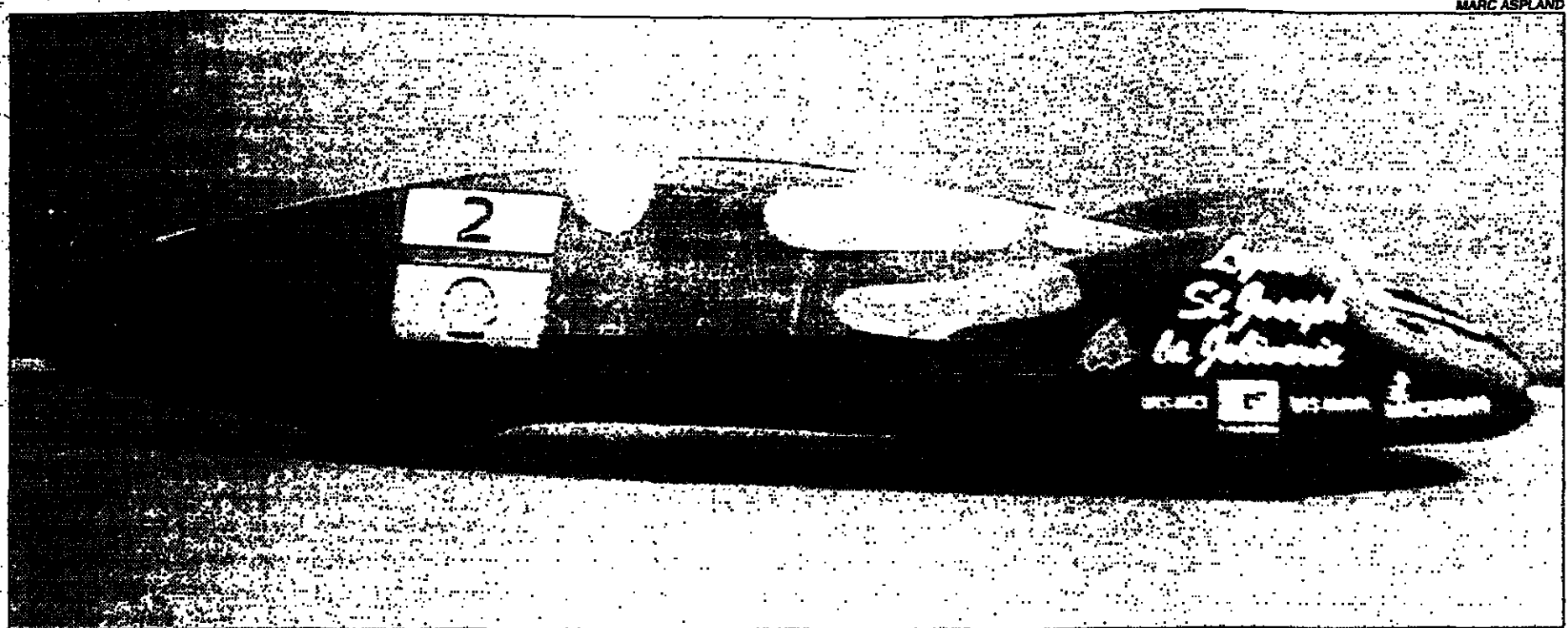
Apart from the benefit of cutting fuel bills, McKeown Industries says its PosiVow device will offer drivers of older cars the chance of cleaner engines at a time when pressure is growing from the environmental lobby to cut output of vehicle emissions.

The company admits that

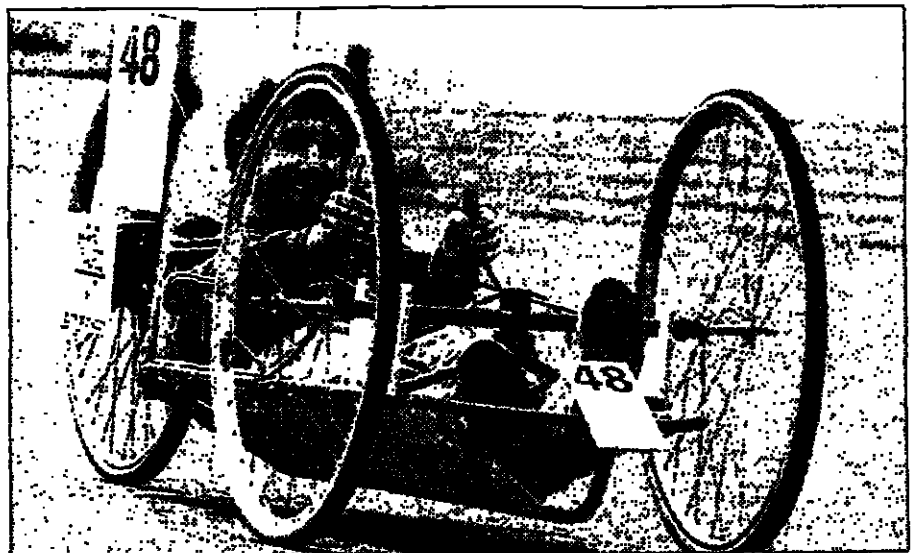
its device has yet to be put through an examination by authorised agencies, but claims tests on nearly 500 cars in Northern Ireland show that savings have been consistent on dozens of different types of car. Parents have been applied for and the PosiVow will be on sale from October.

Although it costs £50, Norman McKeown, chairman of McKeown Industries, claims that the device has a life of 90 years and can be switched from car to car.

However, the Royal Automobile Club says that drivers could cut their fuel bills by up to 25 per cent simply by cutting top speeds from 75mph to 56mph. Driving aggressively uses more fuel than driving smoothly.



Economy class: the streamlined car, entered by French students, which won the Shell Milage Marathon yesterday, reaching a top speed of 15mph



Bare essentials: the marathon entry from Ravenswood School, Kent

Knife found close to site where young mother was killed

FROM STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

A KNIFE was found by police yesterday partly buried in undergrowth on Wimbledon Common close to the scene of the murder of Rachel Nickelle, the 23-year-old woman stabbed in front of her young son.

Police would not say last night whether the knife would prove to be the murder weapon but they confirmed that it matched the description of the knife used in the killing. The knife was last night being examined by Scotland Yard's forensic science laboratory.

The knife was found during extensive police searches in the area surrounding the corpse where Miss Nickelle was sexually assaulted and killed.

Scotland Yard said last night that a man released on bail after being questioned about the murder was still "in custody in connection with minor offences unrelated with this matter". The man, aged 30, from south London, will appear before magistrates today in connection with the unrelated offences.

Describing the discovery of the knife, Det Chief Inspector Mike Wickerson, the second in command of the investiga-

tion, said it was single-bladed and similar to a steak knife, with a 5½ in blade. It was discovered about 150 yards from where Miss Nickelle was ambushed and attacked. It was found as a police team cleared away undergrowth close to a gully where one witness was reported to have seen a man washing his hands shortly after the murder.

Mr Wickerson said the knife had not been hidden very long and he refused to say whether it bore any blood stains. He said: "It could fit the bill and it may not. I am cautious about it."

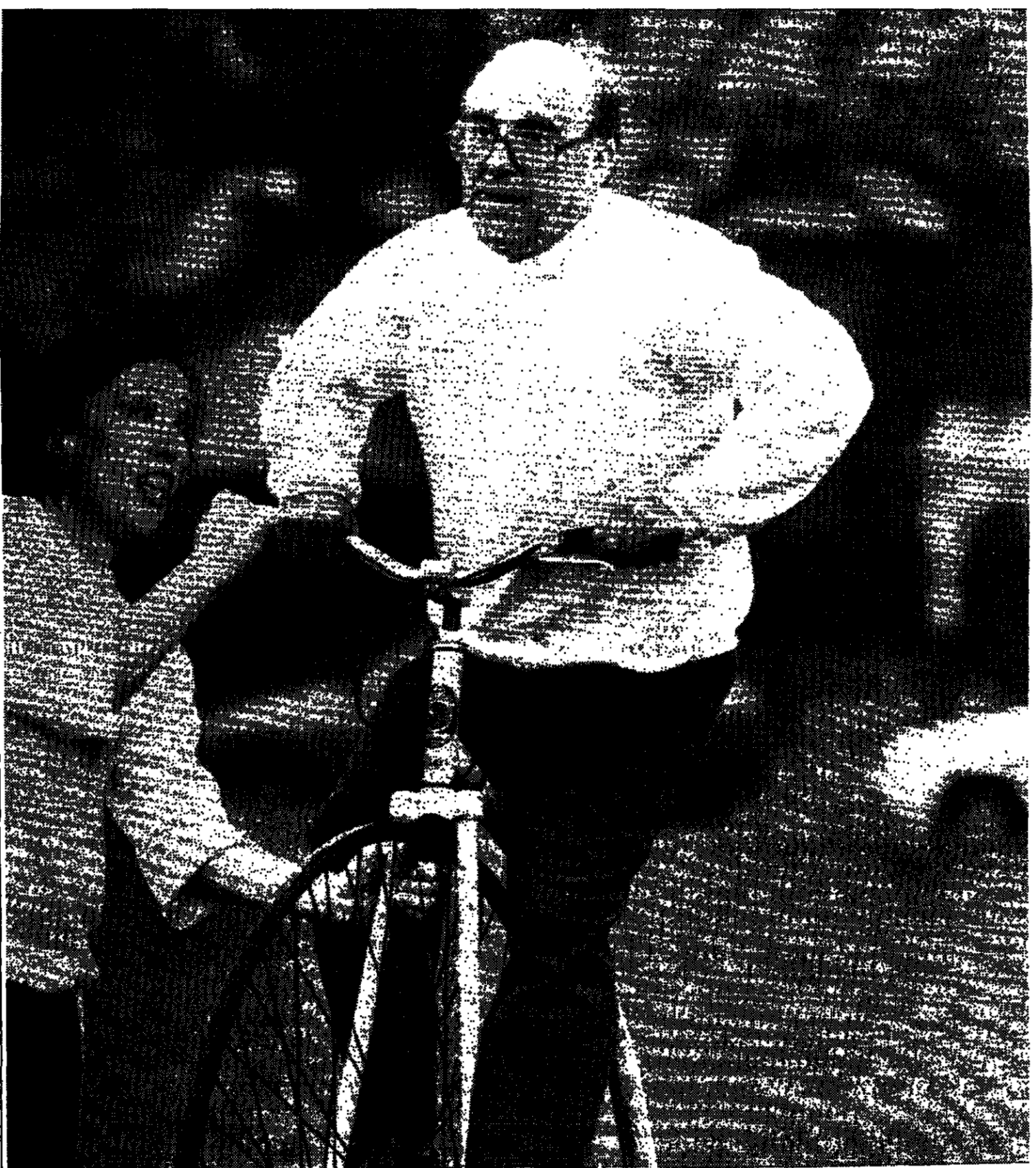
Earlier in the investigation, police said that the murder weapon was a single-bladed knife with a blade of five to six inches. It was similar to a sheath knife and had something like a brass guard at the base of the handle. It was used very forcefully and Miss Nickelle was stabbed with the blade's full length.

A police photographer was called to the area on the common to record where the weapon had been found. Officers with metal detectors have been scouring the area for nearly two days and other searches have been working

across the common checking what they believe could have been the escape route of the murderer. Fifty officers were still working last night in various sections of the common cutting down undergrowth or moving carefully across exposed ground.

Mr Wickerson repeated police warnings to women to be careful on the common. He said: "You've got to say there is a good chance the killer could do it again. If women are going on to the common they should stay in the open, should not walk on their own and not go into secluded areas."

Miss Nickelle's parents, who live in Ampthill, Bedfordshire, are still on holiday in Canada. Miss Nickelle's boy friend, Andre Hanscombe, father of the two-year-old boy Alexander, has made a public plea for potential witnesses to come forward. Yesterday toys were left at Wimbledon police station for Alexander and a growing number of bouquets appeared close to the scene of the murder. Several members of the public, many of them walkers on the common, arrived during the day to add to the collection of flowers.



Halford deal splits authority

By RONALD FAUX

MEMBERS of Merseyside police authority failed to agree yesterday when they met to discuss a settlement put forward to end Alison Halford's long-running sex discrimination case. They were heard arguing as they began a three and a half hour private emergency meeting in Liverpool, which had to be adjourned until Tuesday.

Miss Halford, 52, assistant chief constable of Merseyside, is accusing James Sharples, chief constable of Merseyside, the home secretary, Northamptonshire police authority and Sir Philip Myers, Inspector of Constabulary, of sex discrimination after she made nine unsuccessful attempts to win promotion.

In Manchester, the industrial tribunal which is hearing her case waited for a decision from the police authority on the deal struck by lawyers from both sides. It would allow Miss Halford to retire on full pension and for disciplinary proceedings against her to be dropped.

But as the Liverpool meeting dragged on, it became clear that councillors on the police authority were objecting to the terms of the settlement and especially to a substantial cash payment



Awaiting an agreement: Miss Halford yesterday

which was said to be part of it. George Bundred, police authority chairman, said before the meeting that a medical consultant had advised the authority that Miss Halford should consider early retirement on medical grounds.

He said the authority was not happy about being dragged into the matter. The industrial tribunal, he said, was a matter for the police service and the chief constable of Merseyside.

Mr Bundred rejected reports that a six-figure sum would be offered to Miss Halford as part of the settlement. "I don't think the police authority will agree to any financial settlement at all," he said.

The hearing in Manchester has lasted 39 days and has cost more than £1 million. Suggestions that it could continue into next year prompted moves to reach a settlement to save public money.

After the Liverpool meeting Mike Storey, a Liberal Democrat councillor on Miss Halford and her ability to return to work had been read out. There had been so much misinformation over the past few months that the authority felt new members should be given the full facts before a decision were made.

Retirement on health grounds would give an ironic twist to Miss Halford's case. Among her criticisms of the Merseyside police service during the tribunal hearing was a claim that there was "desperate abuse" of the system which allowed officers accused of disciplinary offences to retire on health grounds, at which point proceedings would be stopped.

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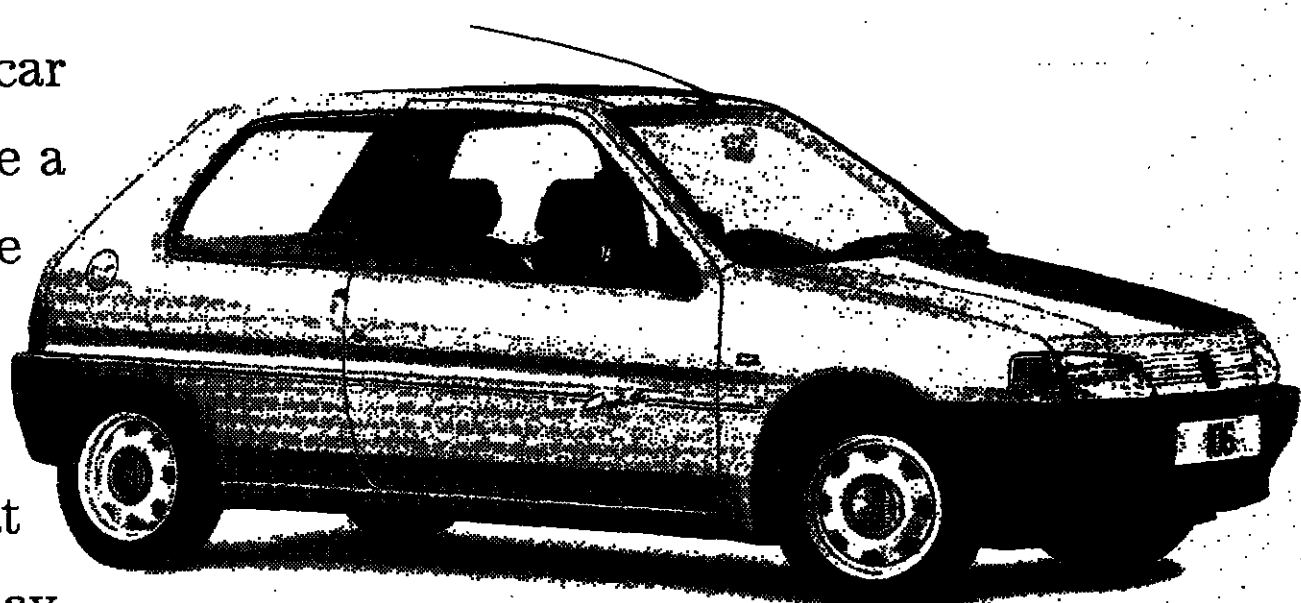
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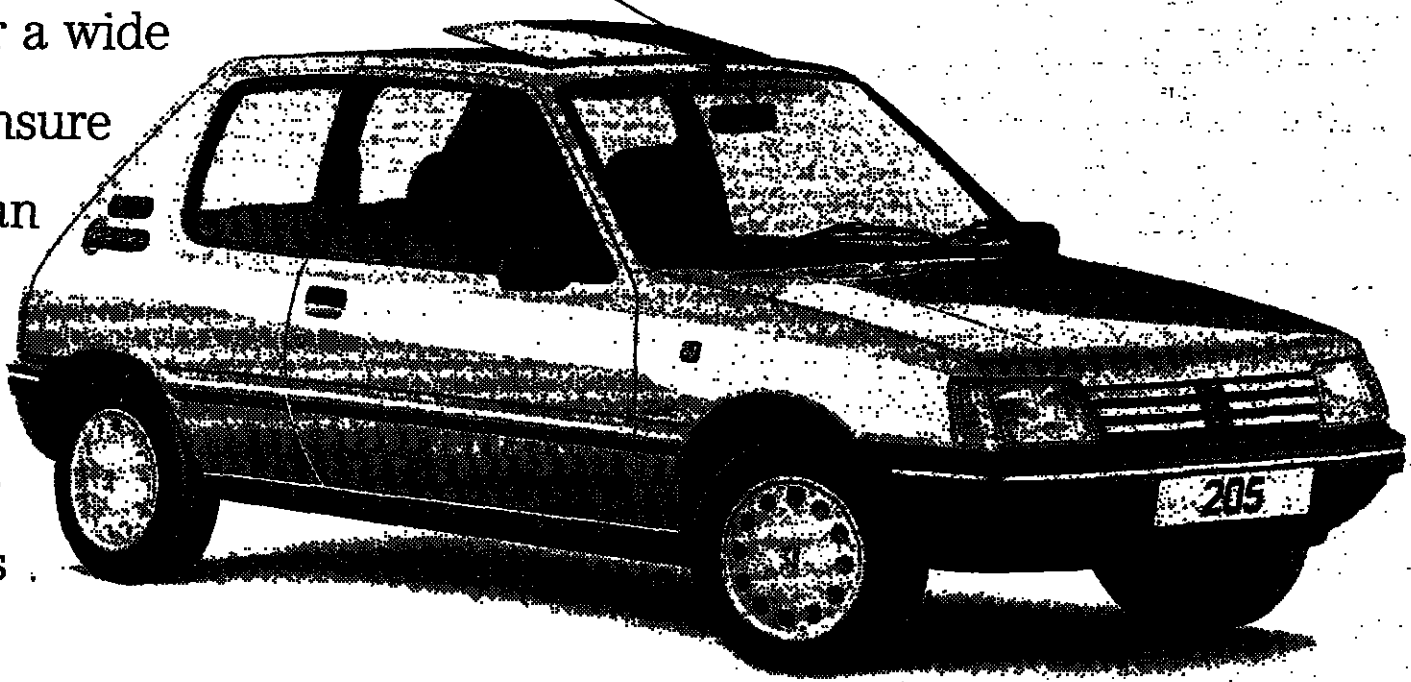
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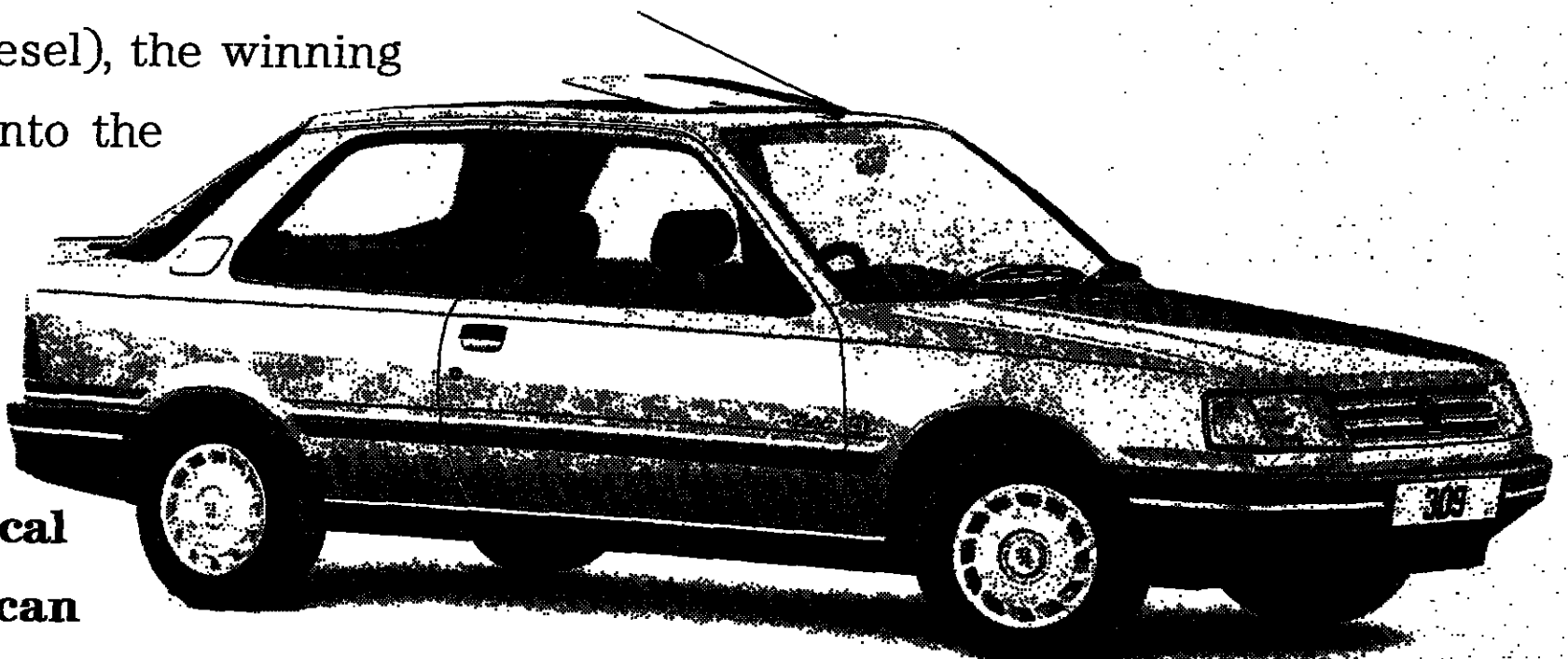
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Imbert studies security at palace

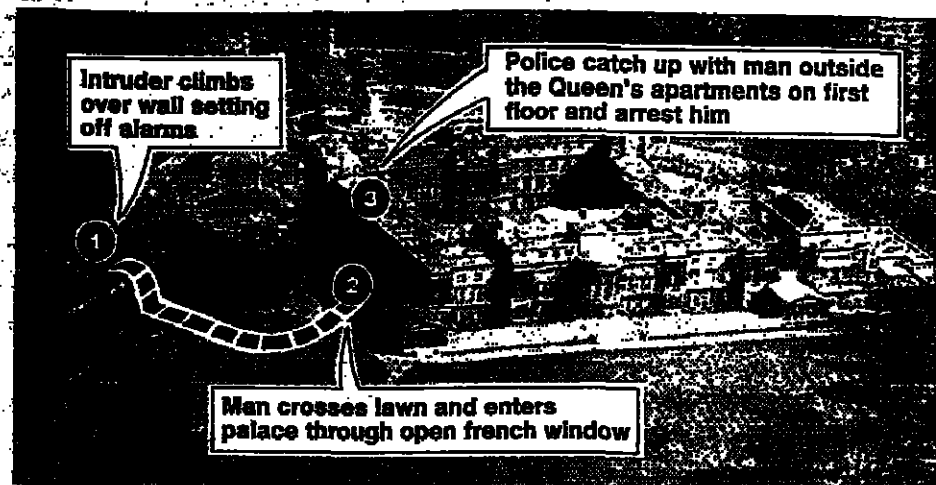
By ROBIN YOUNG

THE Metropolitan Police Commissioner, Sir Peter Imbert, went to Buckingham Palace yesterday to see for himself how an intruder managed to breach security alarm systems and reach the first floor, where the Queen has her apartments.

Police spokesmen emphasised that Sir Peter had not been summoned to the palace to apologise to the Queen, who was visiting Greater Manchester yesterday. Nor is he taking charge of the enquiries into the breach of security, which remains the concern of Deputy Assistant Commissioner David Meyn, who recently took over as head of Scotland Yard's royal protection branch.

A police spokesman said: "Sir Peter took the opportunity to see the scene of the intrusion for himself and he had an informal meeting with Sir Robert Fellowes, the Queen's private secretary, with whom he discussed what had occurred. He did not meet the Queen, who had already departed for engagements in Manchester."

Police maintain that the palace's alarm systems did not fail. The intruder, aged



21 and born in this country, set off the alarm at 3.45 on Thursday afternoon when he scaled a spike-topped wall in Constitution Hill, which runs beside the palace gardens to Hyde Park Corner.

Having climbed over the wall, the intruder sprinted through the palace grounds so fast that he was able to get into the palace through open french windows leading to offices that are used by palace staff. From there he made his way through corridors and staircases to the first floor, where he was confronted by police and brought to the ground two

and a half minutes after climbing the wall. When found he was stripped to the waist.

Having been held overnight at Bow Street police station in Covent Garden, central London, the man was released yesterday when police said no further action would be taken against him. He was driven away from the station in a police car, so that waiting reporters had no chance to interview him.

The man had managed to get closer to the Queen than any other intruder since 1982 when Michael Fagan achieved national notoriety

by breaking into the Queen's bedroom and chatting to her for nearly half an hour.

That was the second time Mr Fagan had climbed into the palace grounds in three days. On the second occasion, he wandered undetected through the palace for a quarter of an hour before finding his way to the Queen's bedroom. When the Queen discovered him, her night alarm bell went unheard, so that she had to hold Mr Fagan in conversation and keep her corgis at bay until she could usher him into a pantry for some refreshment, and make two

telephone calls to palace police for help.

Charges relating to Mr Fagan's break-in were later dropped, though he did spend six months in a high security mental hospital after being convicted at the Old Bailey of an earlier offence of taking a car.

The spikes, barbed wire, electronic alarm systems and loudspeakers guarding the palace perimeter, installed as a result of Mr Fagan's exploits, have not succeeded in keeping other intruders out. Last month, a 25-year-old man was arrested inside the palace grounds twice in one week. A helicopter bringing the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh to the palace had to be diverted.

Two years ago, Eugene Smith, aged 52, was given a conditional discharge after a court was told that he had travelled from Dublin to climb into the palace grounds because he had fallen in love with a woman who had claimed to be the Queen's niece.

The same year Stephen Goulding, who claimed to believe he was really Prince Andrew, was jailed after breaking into the palace.

The Queen and tax, page 16



Tram trip: the Queen travelling on Metrolink, Manchester's new tram system. She also opened a British Council office, a Rochdale college and attended a garden party in Oldham

Targets to cut delay for air travellers

By RICHARD FORD
HOME CORRESPONDENT

LONG delays for non-EC travellers arriving at Heathrow and Gatwick may be less common after the government sets time targets for immigration clearance.

Under targets set earlier this year, EC nationals are supposed to be clear of immigration in three minutes. The new target for other nationalities at Heathrow's terminal one will be 35 minutes for 95 per cent of travellers. At terminal three, where many long-haul flights arrive, the figure will drop to 85 per cent in 30 minutes.

William Davis, chairman of the British Tourist Association, said that American and Japanese businessmen working in Britain who travelled daily to Europe and back were being particularly inconvenienced. Other organisations claim that people from the Caribbean and Indian sub-continent wait longer than white travellers.

Ministers have decided to set individual targets for each terminal because of the complexity of dealing with thousands of passengers arriving on different types of flight.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Library will shelve its charge idea

By SIMON TAIT

The British Library has decided against charging readers but the board, which met yesterday to consider the option, will reconsider when the new St Pancras building is fully operational.

The library is now not expected to open in the £350 million building until 1994 and the question of charges is unlikely to be considered until two years after that, a spokeswoman said.

The board did decide, however, to widen admission to reading facilities by abolishing the lower age limit of 21, which effectively excluded undergraduates.

£30,000 fine

European Gas Turbines, Lincoln's biggest employer, has been fined £30,000 for polluting a waterway with 600 times the safe level of chromium in effluent discharged through a cleaning process.

Police ruling

Seven officers thrown out of the Metropolitan Police after battering a man unconscious outside a public house at Bethnal Green, east London, have had an appeal against dismissal rejected by Kenneth Clarke, home secretary.

Action rejected

No charges will be brought over the disappearance of Patricia Hall, a mother of two, of Pudsey, near Leeds, police said. The Crown Prosecution Service was sent a file.

Surgery error

A pair of forceps were left inside a patient after chest surgery at West Suffolk Hospital, Bury St Edmunds, it was disclosed yesterday.

Stations to go

Proposals to replace 62 rural police stations with community police teams have been accepted by North Wales police authority.

Degrees wait until students pay rent

By MATTHEW D'ANCONA
EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

STUDENTS at Luton College of Higher Education have been told that they will not receive their examination results until their rent debts are paid.

The decision to withhold results is thought to affect more than 500 degree and diploma students at the college in Bedfordshire. Jon Moore, president of the college's student union, said that the delay was causing desperation.

"We are asking the college to take a more sympathetic attitude to the welfare of its students. Those applying for jobs are unable to give their exam results to potential employers and students hoping to transfer to other colleges to continue their education face real difficulties," Mr Moore said.

The college's invocation of a special clause in its code of conduct left students in a serious financial predicament, he said. "If students can give a clear commitment to repay their debts then they should be able to continue their studies or be given their exam results."

A spokeswoman for the college confirmed the decision to hold back results. "It is well within the college's prerogative and is contained in regulations which are made available to students when they join the college," she said.

Universities often insist that students pay all outstanding debts before they graduate. Legend has it that Oxford University, for instance, will not award a degree until a student has cleared his or her account at Blackwell's bookshop.

The Luton decision, however, will alarm undergraduates waiting for results, who fear that they will be unable to pay their creditors until they have found a job, and that they will be unable to get a job without their results.

Sotheby's faces facts on portrait of Bard

By SARAH JANE CHECKLAND
SALEROOM CORRESPONDENT

A SHAKESPEARE enthusiast has reopened the long-standing debate on the identity and appearance of the Bard by questioning the attribution of two items that are due to be sold at Sotheby's on Tuesday.

Francis Carr, director of the Shakespeare Authorship Information Centre in Brighton, dismisses as "twaddle" claims by the auctioneers that a seventeenth century portrait of a balding man with hooded eyes is the Elizabethan playwright. The work is estimated at £60,000 to £80,000, but Mr Carr says it is "worthless because it is a portrait of a person we don't know, by an artist whose identity is unknown".

According to the catalogue the painting is a "remarkable mid-seventeenth century portrait of Shakespeare", being a version of a portrait by Gerard Soest owned by Shakespeare's birthplace in

Stratford-upon-Avon and "the only such likely to come on the market".

But Peter Beale, Sotheby's expert, admitted yesterday that the image dated from two generations after Shakespeare's death in 1615.

"It shows somebody in the 1650s who was obviously thought at that time to look similar to Shakespeare and was therefore modelling," he said.

The catalogue also advertises, at £1,000 to £12,000, a "remarkable recent discovery" of "the only extant contemporary analogue in manuscript of any of Shakespeare's plays". According to Dr Beale the manuscript might have come from a book of the play originally owned by a professional theatrical company.

Mr Carr says the fragment is nothing more than the "bookbinder's waste, or rubbish".

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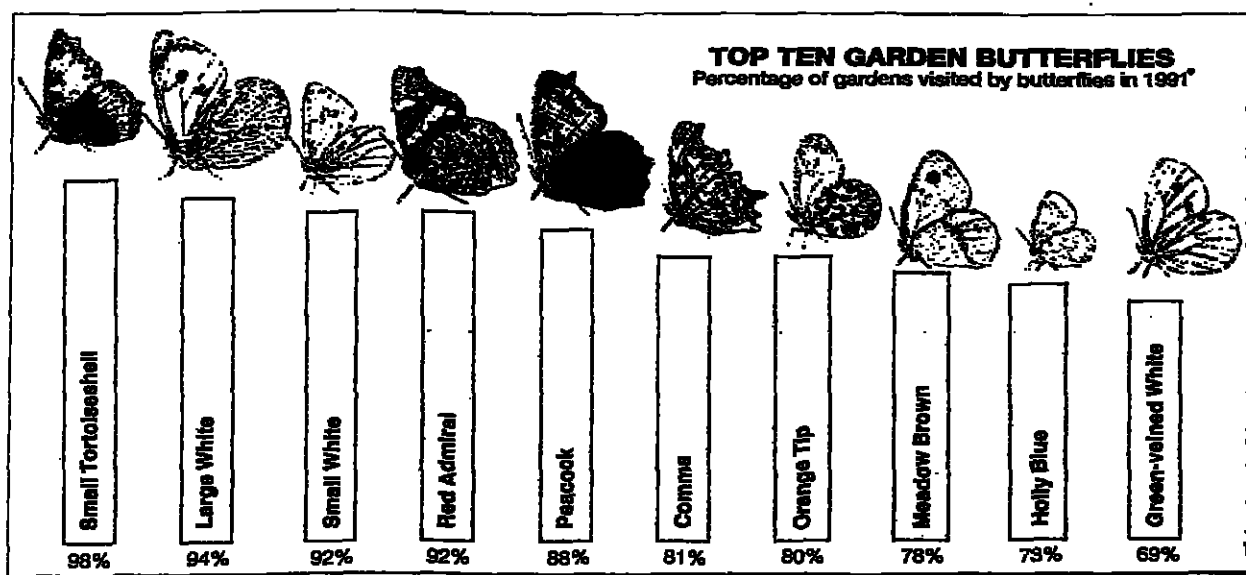


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W E G O F U R T H E R



Gardeners save Britain's butterflies

By MICHAEL HORNSEY
AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN'S gardeners are helping to provide a refuge and breeding ground for butterflies threatened by loss of habitat and the intensity of modern agriculture.

For the past three years, Butterfly Conservation, a charity based at Dedham, Essex, has been conducting a national survey in which 500 volunteers record every species of butterfly they see in their gardens.

A provisional lepidopterous top ten, based on sightings in 1990 and 1991, ranges from the green-veined white, seen in 69 per cent of gardens, to the small tortoiseshell, which visited no less than 98 per cent. Fewer than half the 60 or so butterflies seen in Britain regularly visit gardens.

Andrew Phillips, director of the charity, which has 8,000 members and 25 branches, says gardeners can attract the insects by growing nectar-rich plants, preferably against sunny, south-facing walls and fences. The best are buddleia, golden-rod, michaelmas daisies, phlox, lavender and aubretia. "Unfortunately, even these plants won't do much good if the surrounding countryside has been turned into a desert by intensive agriculture," he said.

Britain is estimated to have 54 permanently resident, breeding species of butterfly. Another six or so, among them the red admiral and the clouded yellow, regularly visit in summer but retire to continental Europe to escape the rigours of the British winter.

Over the past 150 years five species, the large copper, the mazarine blue, the large blue, the black-veined white and

the large tortoiseshell have disappeared. A sixth, the chequered skipper, is confined to Scotland.

Attempts to re-establish vanished species have had some success. The large blue, which became extinct in 1979, was reintroduced from Swedish stock in the mid-1980s.

Most concern centres on the high brown fritillary, regarded as Britain's most endangered butterfly, which was fairly abundant until the 1950s. Since then, according to a recent survey, the number of 10-kilometre squares in England and Wales in which it has been recorded has dropped from 492 to 29, a 94 per cent decline.

Anyone wishing to take part in the garden butterfly survey should contact Butterfly Conservation, PO Box 222, Dedham, Essex CO7 6ES. Telephone: 0206-322342.

GP group predicts 50% rise in patients' complaints

By ALISON ROBERTS

A LARGE rise in the number of patients making formal complaints against their GPs is adding momentum to calls for a radical shake-up of the complaints procedure. GP defence organisations are predicting a 50 per cent increase in workload this year if the trend continues.

A greater willingness to complain and a change in the GP/patient relationship were two of the main reasons for the rise, said Dr Graham Burt of the Medical Defence Union, which took on 600 new cases in the first four months of the year compared with 1,350 for the whole of 1991. An extra 20 GP consultants have had to be employed, he said.

"I think there is a greater awareness of how to complain and a greater propensi-

ty to complain, which in many ways is a good thing, if only the process was not so unwieldy and lengthy," he said. The present system of initial complaint to family health service authorities, alleging a breach in the practitioner's terms of service, followed by several referrals and opportunities to appeal, was protracted and stressful.

The Medical and Dental Defence Union of Scotland also said that it was busier than ever before and is facing increasing demand from GPs for help with claims.

Gerard Panting, head of the GP division of the Medical Protection Society, reported a similarly large rise. "I think the sort of ethic that the patient's charter has produced is encouraging people to exercise their right to com-

plain," he said. "If you look back over a longer time-scale I think the relationship between patients and doctors has got a lot less personal." GPs were far less likely to be family friends and a complainant far less willing to overlook a breakdown in communications.

Dr Panting joined the British Medical Association and the other defence organisations in calling for a complete change in the way complaints are processed. "At the moment we have got a lousy system which drains resources. It takes far too long at the moment and, for both patients and doctors, to have a complaint hanging over you is equally appalling." He called for a system that discriminated more effectively between trivial and serious

complaints and dealt with less important grievances more informally.

The BMA's GPs committee is investigating the complaints procedure and in two weeks will release a report that will be sent to the health department.

David Pickersgill, head of the working party, said that the new GP contract had widened the range of services GPs were required to provide and thus the scope for complaints. He too wanted to see the procedure, which can take 15 months to process one complaint, much simplified.

The rise in patient grievances has been increasing year on year although never quite so dramatically; last year the number rose by 19 per cent. The most common complaints against GPs were failure to visit, properly examine or refer a patient.

In the health service ombudsman's report, published earlier this month, Sir William Reid criticised health authorities for failing to learn from his past reports. "Some of the very bad cases I have commented on are examples of total disregard for the individual patient and sheer discourtesy to those who pluck up the courage to complain," he said. Lack of communication figured in 80 per cent of last year's complaints.

Stomaching failure, page 1

Fish fight for role as water watchdog

By LOUISE HIDAIGO

THREE species of fish are to compete for the job of official water contamination watchdog for the Thames Water region, in what must rank as one of the more bizarre experiments in water quality control.

The contenders for the title are the rainbow trout, traditional monitor of toxic levels in Britain's rivers and waterways, the elephant fish, and the golden orfe, cousin of the ordinary goldfish and already employed by water companies in Europe but a newcomer to the role in Britain.

The fish are to be tested at Thames Water's treatment works on the Tillingbourne in Surrey. There they will be expected to trigger the alarm if pollutants in the water, bound for 100,000 homes in the Guildford and Godalming area, reach critical levels.

Water from the river is fed, day and night, into tanks where the fish are housed. If it is contaminated in any way, the fish are supposed to react by swimming away from the source in an attempt to reach oxygenated parts. That movement sets off an alarm, which is monitored in a central control room.

Brown and rainbow trout have been used by the water industry for the past decade. But the high cost of maintaining those fish has meant that many of the newly privatised companies have preferred to rely on chemical monitors to check pollutant levels at drinking water intakes, according to the Water Research Centre.

Thames has decided to launch the experiment to test which of the three species reacts to the widest range of possible pollutants, including farm slurry, pesticides and industrial waste - and which responds best to water conditions in the Thames region.

Chemical monitors are to be retained. Phil Wakeford, the company's manager for drinking water quality, said: "The fish provide an extra safety net in much the same way that canaries did down

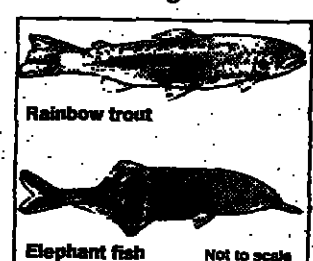


Clear message: golden orfe test the quality of water from the Tillingbourne

the mines. To ensure the fish are safe, they are switched to a stored supply of clean water once they have triggered the alarm.

Trout, while effective monitors in clear river water, have little tolerance for silty water which is common in the Thames and as a result tend

to set off a series of false alarms. The golden orfe, a coldwater fish mainly found in southeast Asia, is already used by water companies in Holland and Germany. The elephant fish, a tropical species, has been used by some manufacturing companies to test new chemicals.



Town rejects grammar school

By MATTHEW D'ANCONA, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

PLANS to found a grammar school in Milton Keynes have been rejected by Buckinghamshire councillors for the third time in five years, in spite of support from the county's own education committee.

Councillors voted by 37 to 28 against the proposed £2 million school, which was to have been founded on the disused site of the former

Denbigh School in Bletchley. Milton Keynes has been a staunch island of comprehensive education in a county that has nine grammar schools. A small group of Conservatives has lobbied vigorously for the introduction of selective education in the town and two weeks ago their campaign persuaded the education committee to launch a public consultation.

Fears of a move towards selectivity have already prompted two Milton Keynes comprehensive schools to opt out of council control to preserve their status.

Andy Dransfield, a councillor and grammar school supporter, said parental choice had been thwarted by the "comprehensive mafia" but the proposals would be renewed next year.

RAISED IN THE HIGHLANDS.

THE FAMOUS GROUSE
FINEST SCOTCH WHISKY
QUALITY IN AN AGE OF CHANGE.

Experts agonise over how to handle genius

By OUR EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

EVERY genius needs a Svengali—but who will groom the prodigies of the future? Over the past two days, 190 experts on gifted children from around the world have gathered at St Catherine's College, Oxford, to discuss the top few per cent of pupils whose dazzling intellects often fox parents and teachers.

According to Franz Mönks of the University of Nijmegen, not every gifted child progresses as happily as Ganesh Sittampalam, the 13-year-old boy who this week gained a first class mathematics degree.

"They often get bored and lose motivation. In The Netherlands, some of them end up in schools with emotional and behaviour difficulties. We have even had cases where children get ill because no one understands them."

Professor Mönks said that able children, whose parents might lack intellectual inspiration, needed the right environment to develop and should be caught as young as five years old. "Normally, the curriculum is tailored to the average, so the top 15 per cent are not served enough. You should give them the possibility to reach their own levels of ability," he said.

Discussion on the gifted child tend to focus on how best to nurture his or her talents and whether one gifted person was needed to spot another. Professor Mönks admitted he himself had

been a "late starter" who went to grammar school only at the age of 18. Richard Lange, director of gifted education in northwest Chicago, said the question raised the point. "People often ask me if I'm gifted enough for my own gifted child programme. But you don't have to be divorced to be a divorce lawyer," he said.

Mr Lange, who acts as a "resource person" to help teachers and runs special classes for Chicago's most gifted children, rejected the stereotype of the exceptionally able. "The danger is that we don't realise the diversity of giftedness. The image of thick glasses and wiry weaselly little kids often isn't true."

Britain's level of provision for very clever children is often criticised. A school inspector's report published early this year said that the very able were often "insufficiently challenged" by lessons in state schools and only five local authorities had officials specifically responsible for education of the gifted.

Johanna Rafan, chairman of the National Association for Curriculum Enrichment and Extension, said it was wrongly assumed that the brightest would cope on their own and they needed special provisions. Bright children were better off in the former Soviet block than they were in the British comprehensive system, she said.

Germans fly home under English eyes

By NICHOLAS WAIT

NEVILLE Chamberlain might have managed a stiff smile. The burghers of Munich, who have been showing off their brand new airport to the world, will be disheartened to hear that flights into their city could soon be directed from Britain.

Staff shortages and difficulties in flying over Yugoslavia mean that Germany is finding it hard to cope with the thousands of flights during the summer peak period. Heathrow's flow management unit, which plans flight routes, has already poached some of the work normally carried out in Germany.

Ian Hall, head of the Civil Aviation Authority's Air Traffic Flow Management Unit, said yesterday: "This is more a case of helping out rather than a permanent takeover. The Germans are shedding some of their work to us which means that flights into Munich could soon contact us."

His team plans flight routes by assessing which sectors in the air have enough room. If the nearest sector is full, space in an alternative has to be booked. "It's a bit like driving on the motorway," Mr Hall said. "If there's a gap you try and sneak in, but if you miss it you may have a long wait."

His unit can work anywhere because staff do not have to see planes. "We could run our office from Timbuktu,

as long as there was a good fax line," Mr Hall said.

Passengers anxious that delicate landings into Munich will be monitored hundreds of miles away in Heathrow have nothing to fear. Once planes are airborne, Mr Hall's team hand over to air traffic controllers; and Munich has an impressive air control tower with a fine view of the airport.

The loss of the air corridor over Yugoslavia has also made life difficult for the Italians. Elaborating on his M25 analogy, Mr Hall said: "Yugoslavia is the main trunk route to Greece, Turkey and the Middle East. Cutting it off is a bit like closing the M25 at 8am. Everyone dives into the side roads, which makes life much harder."

Where planes would normally fly down the middle of Yugoslavia, they are now having to fly to the side.

The Italians have turned to Heathrow for a helping hand, which means Mr Hall could soon be taking charge of all flights into Greece. "An Amsterdam to Athens flight, which would normally contact Rome, would contact us even though we are much further away," he said.

But Heathrow's new rights will not last long. Following the drift of most power in Europe, Brussels will become the management centre of all European air flow from 1995.

Charity builds hope and houses on vandalised estates

IN THE large council estates of eastern Teesside, a quarter of all men are out of work, and in some of the worst blackspots the figure rises to 50 per cent. In this unpromising environment, the East Middlesbrough Community Venture (EMCV) was created in 1989 to retrain and find work for people who had all but lost hope.

A registered charity, it has three subsidiary trading companies. One, Community Security, provides guards for more than 40 public and private groups, and has an annual turnover of £400,000. The second, the East Middlesbrough Construction Company, is a maintenance and small building works service, and the third publishes a monthly community newspaper, *The Challenge*. It also has a share in Roseberry Construction, which employs more than 40 people building timber-framed homes.

EMCV runs an occupational training unit which has provided 100 people



Paul Wilkinson begins an occasional series on hopefuls in the Community Enterprise awards

with new skills. Of these, 70 have found jobs. The group was set up with Middlesbrough Borough Council, and its First Steps to Work project is giving work experience to 50 people.

Another project is an enterprise management training programme, run in conjunction with a local col-

lege and the St Andrews Resources Training Centre in Dublin, as part of an international scheme launched by the European Social Fund. It is working with the local authority and the department of employment on a £1.1 million plan to refurbish Beresford Buildings, a derelict block in one of the estates' shopping centres.

The three-story building originally had shops on the ground floor and maisonettes above, but it was a regular target for vandals. The charity wants to restore nine shops and create a community centre, with a health care centre and advice and support agencies. EMCV has an income of around £350,000, but its subsidiaries have a £1 million turnover. It employs, directly or indirectly, more than 100 people.

The neighbouring East/West Women's Employment Project aims to provide women, particularly single mothers and those from the area's Asian community, with the skills and



Digging for victory: building workers on one of Middlesbrough's community housing projects

opportunity to find work. The scheme grew from a discussion among mothers lamenting how home life, lack of work experience and in some cases poor English, precluded them from ever finding a job. They approached the borough council for financial aid to set up a self-help group. The project began by concentrating on child care, food production, fashion design and clothing manufacture. Local colleges also became involved.

The project opened the Little Acorns day nursery last year, to help mothers working in the city centre. The nursery has expanded and now provides work for nine women supervisors. Six more jobs were created with the opening of a cafe-restaurant at a former cleansing depot, which is being converted into a base for the project. The centre, which should be complete by the end of the year, will have two enterprise and training

units and a nursery. In addition, it will have a local health authority outreach office for its work with the ethnic minorities. Both nurseries are self-sufficient, and the cafe expects to be so by the end of the year. The work is being carried out by a co-operative, using a builder from one of the town's ethnic minorities.

The project employs 19 women and has an annual turnover of £120,000. Funds have been provided by the borough council, Middlesbrough Task Force, the Barling Foundation, the Tudor Trust and the European Social Fund.

The East Middlesbrough Community Venture and the East/West Women's Employment Project are among the entries for this year's Community Enterprise Scheme awards, sponsored by The Times, the Royal Institute of British Architects and Business in the Community.

Athletes offered needles

By JOHN GOODBODY
SPORTS NEWS
CORRESPONDENT

A HEALTH authority is to publicise a needle exchange scheme for sportsmen and women who take anabolic steroids and risk catching Aids by sharing syringes.

The scheme has received a grant of £8,000 from the Welsh committee on drug misuse and will distribute posters and pamphlets in Swansea and Port Talbot.

Dr Huw Perry, a public health officer with West Glamorgan Health Authority, is an amateur weightlifter. He said he had discovered that a high number of people training in gymnasiums were taking the banned hormone drugs and there was a clear risk that they might share needles.

Exchange schemes were originally set up for people taking social drugs, such as heroin, to reduce the risk of HIV transmission. In America, some bodybuilders have developed Aids after sharing needles.

Taking anabolic steroids in large doses can cause liver and kidney damage, sometimes leading to death, and can also lead to acute psychiatric disorders.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Soldier in rifle death is cleared

A teenage soldier who killed his best friend in a rifle range prank was cleared of manslaughter yesterday by Newcastle upon Tyne Crown Court.

Stewart Weir, 16, of Wiskaw, Strathclyde, died instantly when he was shot in the head at close range. Junior Leader Thomas Lindsay, 17, who joined the King's Own Scottish Borderers with Mr Weir last year, told the court that they had pointed their SA-80 automatic weapons at each other in a laughing break at Ouston, Northumberland. Mr Lindsay, of Inverness, Highland, replaced an empty ammunition magazine with a live one, not realising that a live round would slot into the rifle's chamber. He told the five-day trial they had been laughing until he fired.

Negatives lost

The National Portrait Gallery confirmed that it lost 115 early glass photographic negatives from a reserve collection of 10,000, in a flood caused by a burst pipe. Originally, it was said that stored material was unharmed.

Castle's award

The entertainer Roy Castle, who has lung cancer, was presented with an award by Action on Smoking and Health and the British Heart Foundation for his campaign to protect passive smokers.

PC over limit

PC John Cowman, 32, of Alwoodley, Leeds, was nearly three times over the drink-drive limit when he died in a crash on the way to work, an inquest was told. Verdict: accidental death.

Bakery victims

Fifty-seven people are being treated for food poisoning in Maryport, Cumbria, where health officers have closed a bakery until August.

Scientists failed to link sisters with killing

SCOTLAND Yard forensic scientists were unable to discover any evidence linking two accused sisters with the murder of bank official Alison Shaughnessy, the Old Bailey was told yesterday.

Adrian Eames, of the Metropolitan Police laboratory, agreed with Mr Justice Blofield that no scientific material had been found connecting either Michelle Taylor, aged 21, or her 18-year-old sister, Lisa, with anything found in Mrs Shaughnessy's flat.

The prosecution alleges that Michelle, supported by her sister, attacked Mrs Shaughnessy, 21, stabbing her 54 times. Both sisters, of Forest Hill, south London, deny murder.

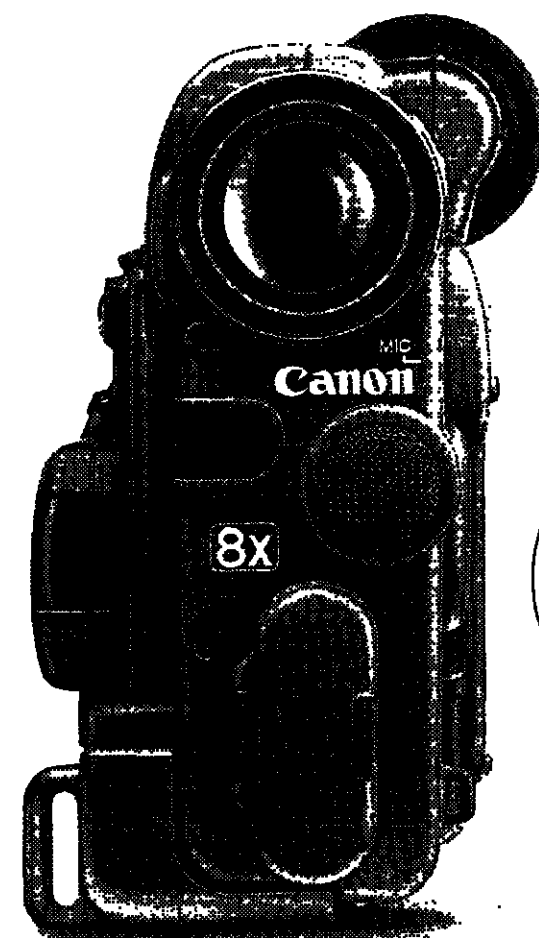
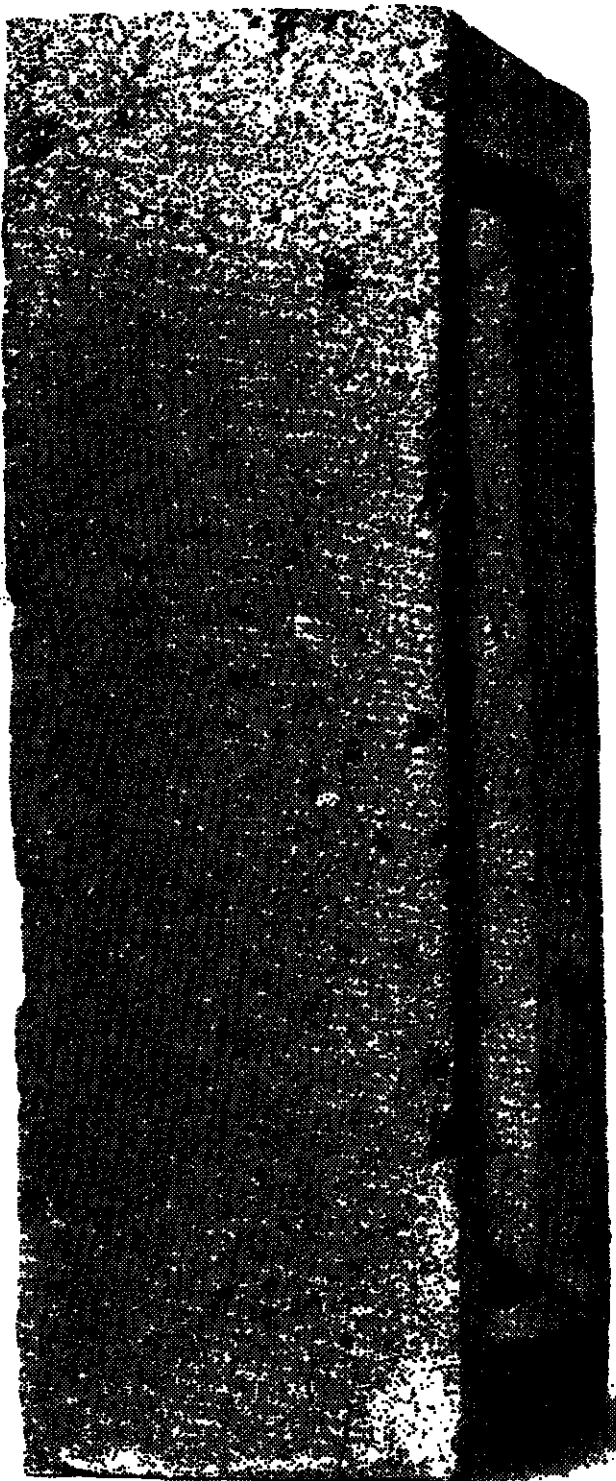
Mr Eames, a specialist in the examination of bloodstains, showed the jury photographs of the victim's black sweatshirt, on which he had tagged 44 knife cuts. Giving evidence on the tenth day of the trial, he said he was struck by the lack of blood at the flat in Battersea, southwest London. "I would assume that much of the bleeding had been internal and that external bleeding would have been absorbed by her clothing," he told the jury.

He agreed with Richard Ferguson, QC, for Michelle, that he had taken head hair samples from both Michelle and Lisa but found nothing to match them in the flat. He had also examined a number of pairs of shoes and training shoes belonging to them, but had found no blood.

However, a fingerprint expert told the court that fresh prints of both girls were found in the flat.

John Nutting, for the prosecution, said Lisa had not visited the flat before the killing. He alleges that Michelle's motive for the murder was her love for Mrs Shaughnessy's husband, John, 30.

The trial continues on Monday.



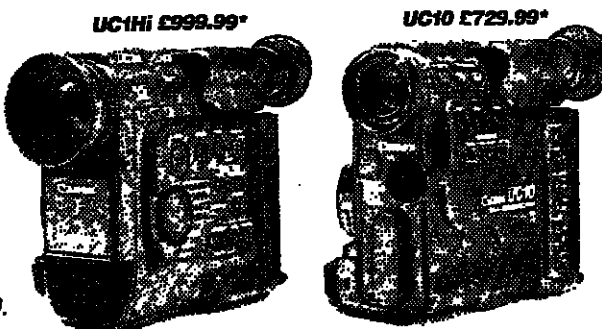
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Fowler tells worried Tories that ERM realignment would lift interest rates



Sir Norman: "British exports 6 per cent up"

TORY critics of the government's economic policy were told yesterday that devaluation of the pound would lead to higher interest rates.

Echoing ministerial warnings against devaluation, Sir Norman Fowler, the Conservative party chairman, declared that ministers would not throw away hard-won gains in a vain attempt to achieve a quick fix.

With the government braced for a difficult summer and autumn because of Tory

worries about the economy, Sir Norman said that the prize of permanently low inflation was within grasp.

As well as repudiating devaluation, the party chairman ruled out a realignment of currencies within the European exchange-rate mechanism (ERM), an idea gaining support in the Labour leadership and among Tory MPs.

Sir Norman said that realignment was devaluation by another name. "Again, we would be showing that we

don't take the disciplines of the ERM seriously," he said. "Again, confidence in sterling would take a severe knock — and up would go interest rates."

Sir Norman's intervention came the day after the German Bundesbank gave other European governments a breathing space by declining to put up its main interest rate. The Bundesbank's action failed to mollify Eurosceptic Tory MPs, who began the summer parlia-

mentary recess yesterday attacking the government. One, Sir Teddy Taylor, said that the plea by Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, to Germany earlier this week against putting up rates was the "most pathetic thing I have ever seen in my life in politics".

Sir Teddy told a meeting in his Southend East constituency: "The massive borrowing and overspending by the government, the appalling trade figures and the alarm-

ing numbers of unemployed are being sustained for the sole purpose of maintaining sterling at an artificial level."

Sir Norman, speaking in Solihull, said that there was every reason to be optimistic about economic prospects for the 1990s. Manufacturing exports were at a record high.

"Some people say that the exchange rate is not competitive," he said. "In that case, our exporters must be very competitive indeed. British exports are 6 per cent up on

the year and we have increased our share of world trade for the last three years."

Sir Norman said that the "quick fix" of devaluation would achieve nothing, and would probably lead to higher interest rates as the markets' assurance that the pound's value was secure was replaced by a certainty that it was not. "If we were willing to devalue now, they'd know for sure that we'd do it again."

Leaving the ERM would not stop German rates affect-

ing British rates, Sir Norman said. During the 1980s, Britain had not been in the ERM, but for only 16 weeks had Britain had rates lower than Germany's. The ERM had helped to underpin sterling and the fight against inflation. "If the pound were to be devalued, more expensive imports would soon increase our inflation rate," he said. "If we were to leave the ERM, pay negotiators would know that inflated pay deals would soon be compensated."

Beaten but unbowed, Gould says he still sets Labour's agenda

BY PHILIP WEBSTER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

BRYAN Gould's campaign organisers yesterday conceded defeat in the Labour leadership election, but said they had no regrets and claimed that their candidate had set the agenda in the three-month battle.

The Gould camp delivered a mixed message, declaring that it was not an occasion for sour grapes or for digs at the victors "who will deserve full support after what seems likely to be an extremely convincing endorsement by the party's electoral college". In the same breath, however, they declared that just as the country had voted for the safe and familiar on April 9, "it appears that the Labour party will do the same on July 18".

They pointed out that the college exaggerated the winning margins of the successful candidates, because it was a series of first-past-the-post elections. Although Mr Gould had scored 30 per cent in most leadership ballots, that would not be reflected in the final tally of votes in the election.

Accepting that the John Smith/Margaret Beckett ticket appeared likely to be victorious, Mr Gould's team said it was in no way apologetic about the way it had conducted the campaign. His candidature for both leader

and deputy had helped set the post-election agenda. If he had not stood there would have been even fewer opportunities for the party to discuss why it lost the election and how it could win next time.

Many Labour MPs will agree with the Gould camp's assessment. There is general agreement that he came up with the fresher ideas at the start of the contest.

They also feel he was unwise in retrospect to go for both the leadership and deputy leadership contests. It led to confusion, with some electors backing Mr Gould for the leadership and John Prescott for deputy, reducing Mr Gould's chances in the latter poll, even though he never had any real chance in the former. They believe that Mr Gould was ill-advised to have taken positions on the economy and Europe sharply opposed to Mr Smith's, making it difficult for MPs, parties and unions to see them as a potentially harmonious leadership team.

One of Mr Smith's trickiest tasks this week will be to decide which shadow cabinet post to allocate to Mr Gould. Among those being mentioned by MPs are shadow health secretary, and shadow citizen's charter minister.

Mr Gould's team revealed yesterday that during the campaign he had written at least 50,000 words in speeches and articles, travelled more than 7,000 miles, and spoken or answered questions for 35 hours, all achieved on a budget of less than £10,000.

They claimed that Mr Gould had set the agenda on changing the electoral college, now universally accepted through the party, on modernising Labour's links with the unions and pressing for an enquiry into the relationship that has now been established, on putting forward the message that Labour would not win by appealing to altruism alone, on tackling the so-called "gender gap", on raising the question of realigning the European exchange rate mechanism, and taking on vested interests.

The campaign team concluded in their report: "Bryan is the first to say that it is the ideas, rather than the personalities, that matter. Whatever the results of the electoral college, he will continue to put forward his ideas for the party's renewal in the future. Our hunch is that he will continue to be the key agenda setter, and that his ideas will be as influential as ever in the years ahead."



Victory in sight: Margaret Beckett and John Smith; but their failed challenger Bryan Gould still calls them Labour's safe option

Low-key election fight climaxes with dull thud

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY

AT THE end of a contest that sometimes lacked the zest of a closely fought parish council election, the Labour leadership campaign plumbed new low-key depths yesterday.

After three months of listless muscle-flexing to the Labour movement, the combatants finished the contest well away from the campaign trail, saying little and quietly awaiting the voters' verdict.

Neil Kinnock, spent election eve in the same surroundings in which he passed the final hours before the general election result which ended his hopes of entering 10 Downing Street. There was no need yesterday for him to ponder the polls, no attempt to gauge the public's mood. As he whiled away the

hours at home in his Islwyn constituency, his only immediate concern was to prepare himself to receive an honorary doctorate from the Prince of Wales at the University of Wales in Cardiff today.

When relinquishing the title of Opposition leader today, he will not immediately lose all the trappings of the job. He has already vacated his suite of offices at Westminster, but he can keep the keys to his governmental car, at least for this month.

For John Smith, his heir apparent, yesterday was spent making the final arrangements for today's special conference which will almost inevitably give him the party leadership and an annual salary of £59,736.

After spending Thursday night at his Edinburgh home, Mr Smith returned to London yesterday for meetings with his new staff. While his own election is secure, Mr Smith faces an uncertain few days before the results of the election of members of the shadow cabinet are known.

Bryan Gould, accepting imminent defeat in both the leadership and deputy leadership contests, remained convinced yesterday that his

decision to stand had proved valuable in ensuring a convincingly-elected new leader. Supporters who joined his end-of-campaign party on Thursday night were not despondent. As he returned last night to take a constituency surgery in Dagenham, east London, Mr Gould was said to be optimistic about his future in Mr Smith's new shadow cabinet.

John Prescott, despite facing defeat in the deputy leadership election, was in typically irrepressible form as he spent time with his family. Even as forecasts indicated that he would take away less than one fifth of the vote, Mr Prescott was confident that he could hold the balance of votes which would prevent Margaret Beckett winning the contest outright. If he is able to stop her collecting the 50 per cent of the vote she requires, his end of campaign party tonight may prove a livelier affair than expected.

Mrs Beckett herself, having assiduously built up support throughout her campaign for the deputy leadership, is spending a rare weekend in London, away from her Derby South constituency, although she took her fortnightly constituency advice bureau there yesterday. Anxious to prevent premature celebration among her supporters, she remained cautious and told campaigners to keep the champagne on ice until tonight.

Peter Riddell and Diary, page 16
Largest mandate, page 20

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Largest mandate, page 20

BR sell-off 'complete by 2002'

BY MICHAEL DYNES TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

PRIVATISATION of British Rail's passenger and freight operations should be completed by 2002, John MacGregor, transport secretary, announced yesterday.

The privatisation of the railways, the 46th state industry to be sold off since the Tories came to power in 1979, has established a precedent for restructuring that is being emulated in Germany, Holland and Italy, he said.

Speaking at the end of a two-day informal meeting of EC transport ministers at Brocket Hall, Hertfordshire, one of Britain's finest stately homes, Mr MacGregor said railway privatisation was an idea for which "time had come". The role of the private sector in improving passenger and freight services was being increasingly recognised throughout Europe.

Outlining Britain's agenda for completing the single European market in transport by next January, Mr MacGregor said priority would be given to the Community's air transport liberalisation initiative, including the attempt by Brussels to extend access to landing slots at busy airports to new operators.

Agreement on landing slot

reforms and the liberalisation of road haulage are the last obstacles to a single market for transport. Britain was also eager to ensure that government subsidies to state-owned airlines were policed more effectively. It wished to ensure that any such aid was subject to the same disciplines faced by private companies borrowing from the private sector.

Wide-ranging discussions were held on the problem of reconciling transport and en-

vironmental issues. Mr MacGregor said that Britain and its European partners were determined to ensure that the overwhelming majority of decisions dealing with transport and the environment were taken at national level.

Commission officials have also been asked to reach a prompt decision on the proposed M3 extension through Twyford Down, Hampshire, which Brussels tried to block last year.

Tory MEP trumps the chatterers with a one-card trick

BY NICHOLAS WATT

EUROPE'S chatterers may talk of little else, but one British MEP believes that he can sum up the Maastricht Treaty's 253 pages on two sides of a postcard.

Edward McMillan-Scott, Tory MEP for York, today launches his Maastricht Card, which is written in the kind of simple language so alien to Eurocrats. Elongated sentences and Euro-jargon are cast aside in favour of short, sharp writing. Mr McMillan-Scott did admit, however, that it was impossible to avoid "subsidiarity", Jacques Delors' latest pet word.

The postcard project was dreamt up last month after Mr McMillan-

Scott, foreign affairs spokesman for Tory MEPs, told a group of constituents that "everything important in the Maastricht Treaty could be written on two sides of a postcard".

So Mr McMillan-Scott, who describes himself as a "Euro-pragmatist" sandwiched between sceptics and fanatics, set out to condense the treaty. "I admit that the odd nuance is not there but I've included the key points. I feel I've summed up the heart of the treaty," he said.

The card says that the treaty increases the accountability of the EC. Mr McMillan-Scott also manages a feat that has confounded some of Europe's greatest minds: he

defines subsidiarity in 15 words. It means, he writes, "that EC laws should only be made if [they are] more effective than national or regional laws".

Mr McMillan-Scott has drawn three Roman pillars to show how Maastricht introduced intergovernmental councils for foreign affairs and criminal justice alongside the traditional EC machinery.

Fellow Euro MPs have warned to the card. "Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, the former French president, came up and said that he would like to have one drawn up for the French referendum campaign. He would of course have to include the social chapter and EMU in his version," Mr McMillan-Scott said.

Will the card become an essential aide-memoire for self-respecting Europeans? "It will be useful because people do not have the time to digest the treaty. People might mull over the card or it might even send them to sleep. It would be a much better insomnia than the BBC World Service."

Some of Mr McMillan-Scott's friends at Westminster were not greatly impressed. The Tory MP William Cash, unofficial leader of the party's Eurosceptics, said: "Edward is an old chum of mine and he's done a good PR job. But I am not sure that the card really reflects what has happened. He says that the treaty will increase the accountability of the EC when the

unelected bankers will profoundly and damagingly destroy democracy in the Community."

Patrick Robertson, co-ordinator of the Bruges Group, wasted no time in dashing out an equally short Maastricht Card. His opened with the words: "As the Berlin Wall fell in 1989 the 12 European Community countries continued to plan an outdated Europe." He also defined subsidiarity in a few words, one of which was "gobbledygook".

Steven Woodard, assistant director of the European Movement, who is an unashamed federalist, praised Mr McMillan-Scott's efforts. "I think the card is excellent. The treaty is very complex but he has summarised it very well."

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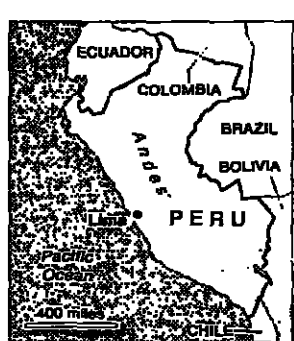
Car bomb kills 18 as Maoists extend terror tactics to Lima

BY GABRIELLA GAMINI AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

LEFT-WING guerrillas detonated a car bomb in Lima last night, killing at least 18 people on a residential street, and simultaneously attacking four police stations outside the Peruvian capital.

The blast ripped the façade off 10-floor buildings for the length of a city block, killing people on the street and in their apartments above. No one claimed responsibility for the attacks, but police suspected they were the work of the Maoist Sendero Luminoso (Shining Path) guerrilla group, which has recently begun to use car bombs. Police said at least 100 people were injured by shattered glass and debris in the fashionable Miraflores neighbourhood.

After more than a decade of bloody violence, which has claimed more than 25,000 lives, the Shining Path has succeeded in moving its terrorist campaign from the remote Peruvian jungles and Andean highlands to the capital city, where bomb attacks and the movement's strength are growing each day. It has become Latin America's biggest guerrilla group and is the



last to maintain its Maoist ideology, becoming a formidable threat to the government of President Fujimori.

"The Sendero guerrillas are now more of a threat than ever. They are in the capital and have managed with their bombing campaign to cause total chaos and fear," Enrique Bernalde, an opposition politician and a member of a human rights commission, said yesterday.

The movement was born 12 years ago when a philosophy professor, Abimael Guzman, began to give Marxist-Maoist lectures at the University of Humananga in the city of

Ayacucho, about 200 miles southeast of Lima. He founded a breakaway faction of the Peruvian Communist Party named Red Banner, and from this eventually emerged the Sendero Luminoso.

Señor Guzman and his followers began their armed struggle by burning ballot boxes during local elections in the central Andean region, claiming that politics deceived the poor. At first they received widespread support from landless peasants, who felt rejected by the government in Lima. To spread their ideology, the guerrillas hung up dogs in remote villages, tagged with Maoist literature. But soon the spreading of their ideology took a bloody turn. When peasants or campesinos refused to join the movement, they were killed and Sendero Luminoso lost much of its support in rural areas.

In the past two years the guerrillas have shifted their campaign of terror to the capital itself, gathering support in slum areas which surround the city of Lima. "They have capitalised on the

dissatisfaction of the poor in Lima, and can hide in the huge sprawls of shanty towns and plan their bombings from there," a political analyst said.

Sendero Luminoso's advance on the capital was one of the reasons for President Fujimori's coup in April, when he abolished Congress and took over the judiciary, giving himself dictatorial powers with the support of the military. President Fujimori gave the security forces increased powers to take action against the guerrillas.

However, despite the repression by security forces, Sendero Luminoso has continued to show its strength on the streets of Lima. Bombings have become almost a daily occurrence, and Sendero regularly calls for strikes which manage to paralyse the entire city. "The guerrillas have managed to cause havoc and fear. But they are also managing to get support from the poor and can now claim that they are fighting a dictator rather than a democratic government," Roberto Rospiogliosi, of the Peruvian Studies Centre, said.



Genchis Khan's heirs: Mongolian soldiers, dressed in uniform harking back to the times of the 13th-century Mongolian conqueror, entering a stadium in the capital, Ulan Bator, for a military parade at the start of a traditional national day festival of

horse racing, wrestling and archery. Puntagiin Jasray, a pro-market reformer, to be the country's new prime minister. Diplomats said Mr Jasray, an economist, elected late on Thursday, would inject new life into

Mongolia's efforts to dismantle its centrally planned economy. He replaces Dashiin Byambasuren, also of the ruling party, who pulled out of the election. Mr Jasray was head of the state planning commission from 1985 to 1990. (Reuters)

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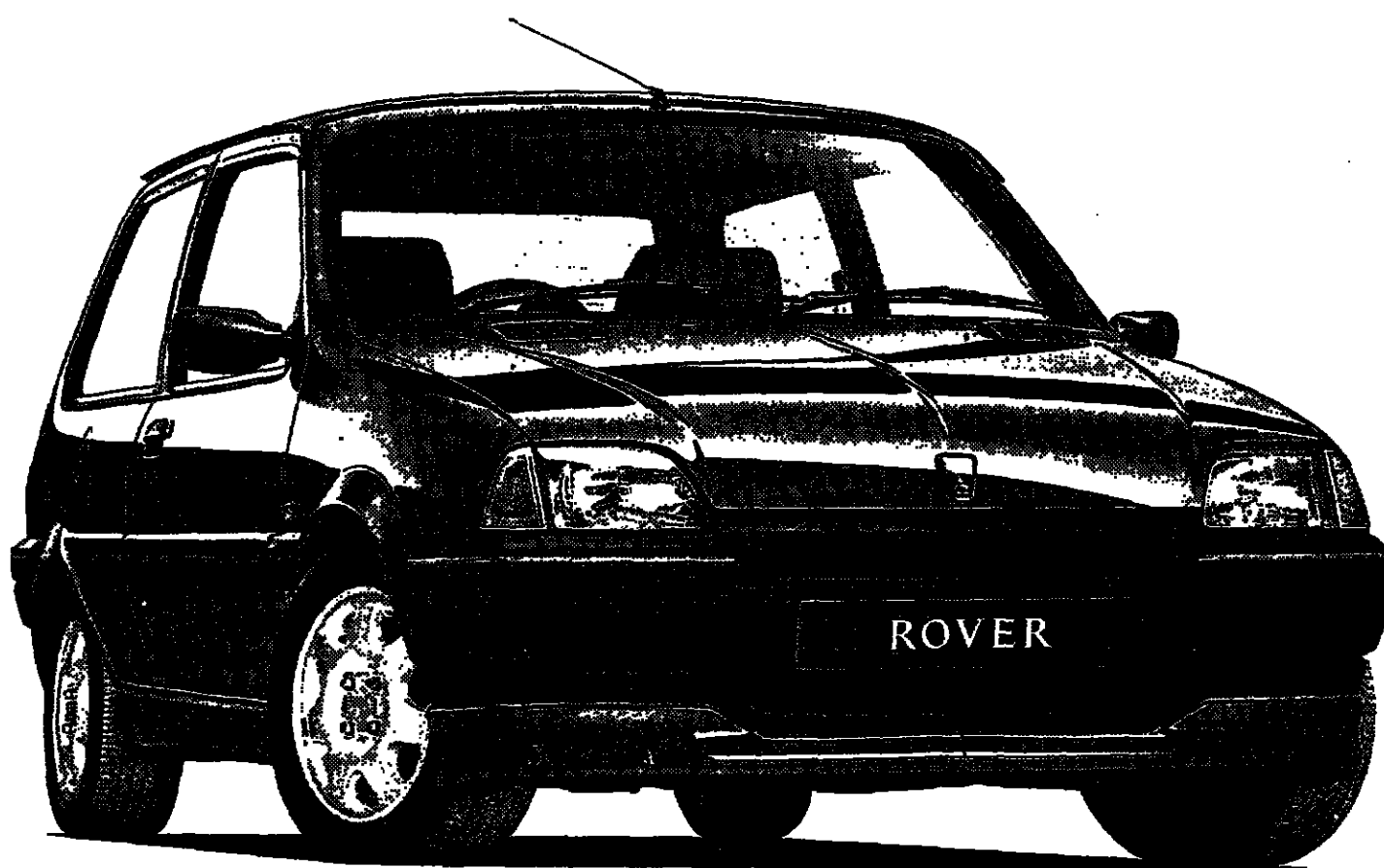
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Belligerent Saddam mocks UN

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER
IN CAIRO

IRAQ'S refusal yesterday to co-operate with United Nations inspectors searching for missile-related documents and the murder of a UN guard in the north of the country has further strained relations with the international body.

As Rolf Ekeus, a senior UN envoy, arrived in Baghdad, the Iraqi government announced that the decision to block the search of the agriculture ministry building in the capital was irrevocable, and President Saddam Hussein delivered a belligerent speech marking the 24th anniversary of the coup which brought his Baath party to power. He dismissed the UN as an American-run "advertising agency promoting its [US] policies so as to rule the world", and called on Arabs for a new jihad to overthrow the moderate regimes in Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Egypt.

Behind the rhetoric, Western military observers detected a new willingness by Saddam to force a showdown to boost his popularity at home. Before the dispatch of Mr Ekeus, UN sources in New York said that America, Britain and France were considering an ultimatum threatening military action. Western and Arab sources said yesterday the chances of a limited air or missile strike were growing.

The earlier shooting of the UN guard as he slept in Dahuk, blamed unofficially on Iraqi agents, came after Baghdad refused to renew an agreement allowing the stationing of 500 UN guards and 600 aid workers in the Kurdish region. "Over the past three weeks, the security situation has gravely deteriorated," Boutros Boutros Ghali, the UN secretary-general, wrote to the security council.

Rabin wins peaceful end to siege

FROM RICHARD BEESTON
IN JERUSALEM

YITZHAK Rabin, the Israeli prime minister, yesterday successfully reached a peaceful compromise with Palestinian leaders after a tense four-day stand-off between security forces and students in the West Bank city of Nabhus.

According to Palestinian and Israeli officials, the test of wills played out on the campus of An-Najah university between hundreds of Israeli soldiers and about 3,000 Palestinian undergraduates was expected to end last night after several armed Palestinian suspects named by the authorities agreed to go into voluntary exile.

Faisal Hussein, the leading Palestinian figure in Arab east Jerusalem, said that the agreement had been reached after lengthy negotiations between eight Palestinian mediators and General Danny Rodin, the head of the military government in the occupied territories. Military sources said that six Palestinian activists hiding in the university grounds were expected to be deported to Jordan last night after agreeing to remain outside the country for three years. They will be allowed to return home once a year to visit their families.

The start of the siege coincided with Mr Rabin's first day in office as prime minister and defence minister, and had threatened to disrupt the start of the latest peace mission by James Baker, the American Secretary of State, who is due in Jerusalem tomorrow night. Mr Rabin's handling of the situation has helped to temper his reputation among Arabs as a tough, sometimes brutal former general and defence minister, who tried to put down the intifada by force four and a half years ago.

India acts to halt child jockey trade

BY CHRISTOPHER WALKER

THE Indian government announced yesterday that it would take steps to halt the smuggling of children to the Arab world for training as camel-racing jockeys.

The scandal was highlighted this week in the United Arab Emirates, when four child camel jockeys were arrested for beating to death a seven-year-old Bangladeshi rival they considered a threat to their livelihoods.

Western observers have described the trade in child jockeys as one of the worst examples of child exploitation today. Arab camel owners respond that there are many willing volunteers for the relatively high wages for the average four-year period a child jockey is employed.

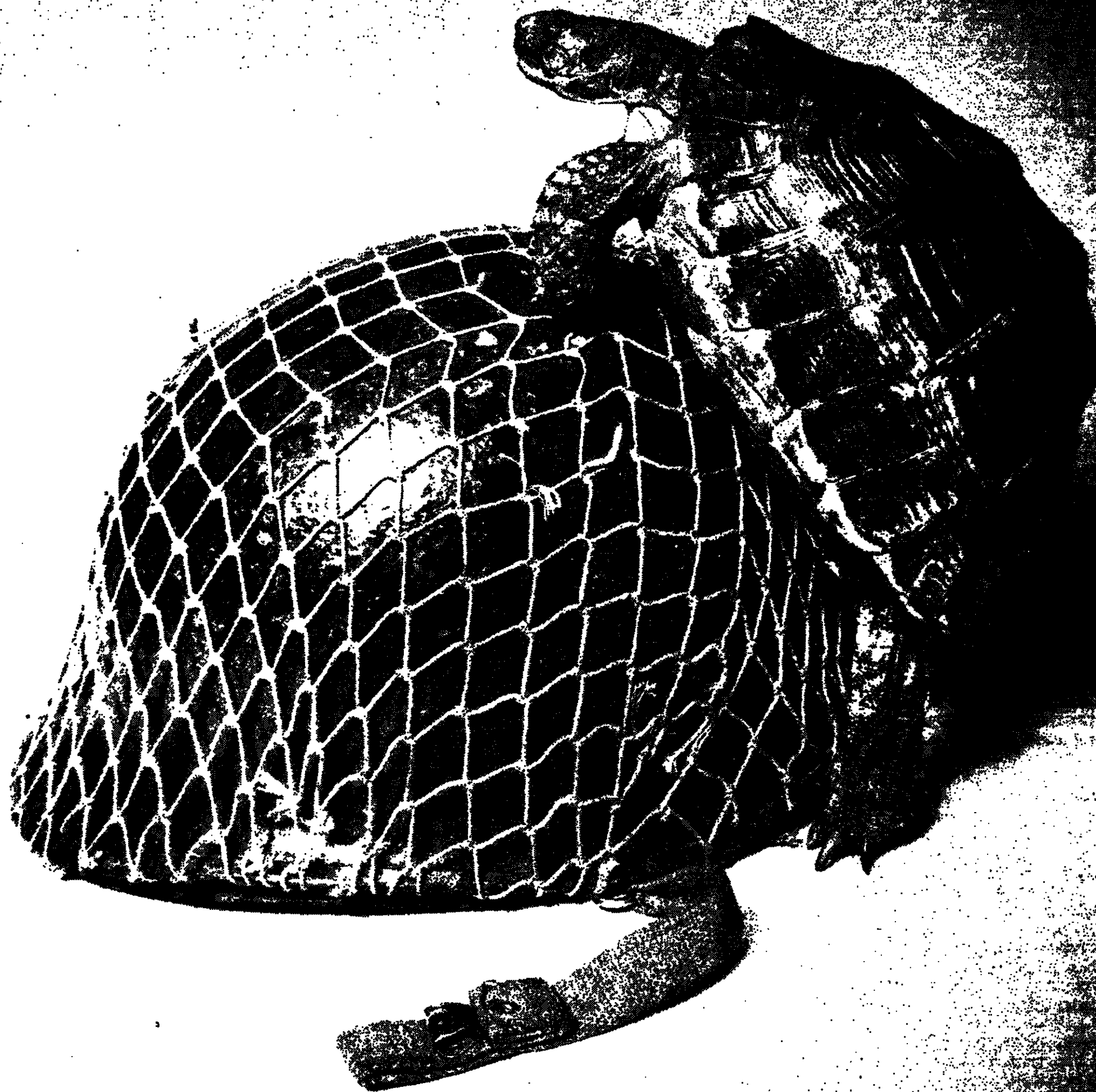
Mamata Banerjee, the Indian minister of youth affairs and sports, told parliament that the government was aware of the kidnapping of potential jockeys and was taking steps to prevent it. Indian police told re-

porters that boys as young as two had been kidnapped and taken to Gulf states where camel racing is a popular sport. The children were often tied against their will to the backs of the racing camels. Tens of thousands of dollars of prize money are at stake and the top racing camels can fetch \$500,000 (£260,000).

The scandal, which the Arab camel-owners have been anxious to conceal, gathered momentum last month when police and immigration officials in Delhi rescued eight Bangladeshi boys allegedly being smuggled to Dubai. The fierce rivalry between owners from Dubai and Abu Dhabi.

Three months earlier, police in Bombay rescued 25 Bangladeshi aged between two and five who were also allegedly being smuggled to the Middle East as jockeys. Child recruits usually live on the farms of camel trainers, where it is alleged they are often harshly treated.

السؤال الأول



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مكتبة الامير

Clinton takes big poll lead and woos voters abandoned by Perot

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN NEW YORK

DEMOCRATS left New York galvanised and full of hope yesterday after an unusually harmonious convention that moved the party well towards the centre, sent Bill Clinton surging past President Bush in the polls, and set the scene for a ferocious election campaign this autumn.

In a nomination acceptance speech on Thursday that brought the convention to a climactic end, the Arkansas governor struck the first blow with a passionate appeal to what he called the "army of patriots for change" left stranded by Ross Perot's sudden withdrawal from the presidential race just hours earlier. "Join us. Work with us. Win with us," he pleaded. "Together we can make the country we love the country it was meant to be." The Republicans were "the forces of greed and defensiveness of the status quo".

In the most crucial speech of his career, Mr Clinton also went all out for the centrist white swing vote that has handed Republicans the White House in five of the last six elections. With delegates roaring approval, he accepted the nomination "in the name of all the people who do the work, pay the taxes, raise the kids and play by the rules — the hard-working Americans who make up our forgotten middle class".

Above all, the man once dubbed "Slick Willie" sought to portray himself not as a politician, but as a caring and trustworthy human being. "Tonight I want to tell you, as plainly as I can, who I am, what I believe in and where I want to lead America," he said at the start of a 54-minute



US ELECTION

speech which dwelt on the homespun, all-American values of hard work, family, faith and patriotism instilled by his hard and impoverished small-town youth.

The convention ended with the families of Mr Clinton and Al Gore, his running mate, filling the stage. Hillary Clinton and Tipper Gore, Mr Gore's wife, doing a brief ecstatic dance together, and the whole of Madison Square rocking to the Fleetwood Mac song *Don't Stop Thinking About Tomorrow*.

Mr Clinton and Mr Gore set off today for a six-day, eight-state swing campaign through the American heartland, determined to maintain their momentum. Vice-President Dan Quayle headed for Southern states where Republican prospects have soared after Mr Perot's withdrawal. Late July and August is a slack campaigning period, but not this year.

The week of mounting political drama left Mr Clinton better placed to win the White House than any Democrat since Jimmy Carter in 1976, though the traditional convention "bounce" rarely lasts long. A new CNN-USA Today

poll yesterday showed that Mr Clinton, on 56 per cent, had opened a remarkable 23-point lead over Mr Bush, on 33, while an ABC News poll of likely voters gave him an even larger lead of 58 per cent to 29. Barely a week ago, before the convention and before naming Mr Gore as his running mate, Mr Clinton was locked in a virtual tie with Mr Bush and Mr Perot.

The polls contained further good news for Mr Clinton. Those who viewed him favourably as a person leaped 18 points since early July to a new high of 59 per cent, while there was a corresponding 20-point drop to 29 per cent among those he turns off. Moreover, the polls suggested that, initially at least, the Democrats were likely to benefit more than the Republicans from Mr Perot's departure. One showed a 53-35 per cent division of the so-called "Perot-nistas" in Mr Clinton's favour, the other a 47-31 per cent division.

However, Mr Perot's withdrawal permits the Republicans to declare open season on Mr Clinton without fear of driving his supporters to a third candidate, and the overwhelming purpose of the Democrat's speech was to arm himself against those attacks while broadening his appeal. Earnest not rabble-rousing, it was clearly aimed at the millions watching on television rather than the delegates around him.

Mr Clinton sought to build his defences against the inevitable further assaults on his character by promoting a powerful and hopefully inimitable alternative image.

The speech came after a 14-minute biographical film which emphasised his love of family but glossed over the more controversial episodes in his life.

The Bush campaign team has already sought to woo middle America by painting Mr Clinton and Mr Gore as tax-and-spend liberals. The Arkansas governor pointedly combined compassion with toughness, stressing his commitment to economic growth, strong defence, welfare as a "second chance, not a way of life", and parental responsibility. He was, he insisted, pro-choice, but not pro-abortion.

Mr Clinton sought also to pre-empt the sort of Republican attacks that destroyed Michael Dukakis in 1988. There had been no "Arkansas miracle", he said, but whereas Mr Bush had taken "the richest country in the world and brought it down, we took one of the poorest states in the country and lifted it up".

He seized for himself the traditional Republican issues of patriotism and family values. Successive Republican administrations had undermined the Pledge of Allegiance, under C. C. Indiville, by practicing the critical politics of division. He was "fed up with politicians in Washington lecturing Americans about family values. Our families have values. Our government does not".

He told Mr Bush: "Your time has come and gone. It's time for a change. We can do better."

Leading article, page 17



Tennessee waltz: Senator Al Gore dancing with his wife, Tipper, at the Democratic convention in New York after accepting the party's vice-presidential nomination. They are watched by their son, Albert

Democrat seeks immunity from the adaptable Republican virus

Bill Clinton's speech was intended to present himself as a politician immune to character assassination Peter Stothard, US editor, writes from New York

THIS week Bill Clinton began a painful course of inoculations, each shot designed to ward off the political diseases that are potentially most dangerous to him over the coming presidential campaign. Next week, as he tours the country to try to consolidate his new lead in the polls, he will begin to discover if the treatment is working.

Governor Clinton's speech accepting the presidential nomination of his party was too long and turgid in parts. It perhaps owed too much to the list of Franklin Roosevelt's policy pronouncements he had been studying in his hotel room. But after a triumphant week presenting party unity, that hardly mattered. His main job was to present himself as a man immune to character assassination.

He admitted that some voters did not trust him. To counter this perception, he took his audience on an extended tour of his poor Arkansas home and alcohol-abusing family. There he learnt values from his grandfather that were more powerful than anything absorbed from "the philosophers of Oxford", he said, neatly dealing with the fatal notion that he might be an intellectual.

He admitted that Democratic leaders were part of both the problem and the solution. His attack on the "brain-dead politics in Washington" was not enjoyed by Democratic congressional chiefs whose contribution to the convention had been strictly limited by the Clinton team.

He did not, however, claim, as Michael Dukakis did in 1988, that his own state was the perfect paradigm of what government needed to do. There is no "Arkansas miracle", he said, attempting to pre-empt the ploys of Republi-

can researchers who have been tramping all over his home ground in search of polluted rivers, politically correct teachers and politically corrupt business barons. He described his state as "struggling against some problems we haven't solved yet but full of great people doing amazing things".

He tried to counter the impression this week that the new Democrats are the pro-abortion party. One of the bitterest behind-the-scenes battles in Madison Square Garden was against Robert Casey, Pennsylvania's Democratic governor, who was refused a chance to promote his call for restrictions on abortion law.

The Republicans, who have problems of their own on the issue, will certainly try to paint Bill Clinton as the "ultimate social liberal" with a dubious personal record. Their aim will be the key constituency in a classic two-party race: the conservative, often Catholic, Democrats of the northeastern working class. To them, Governor Clinton addressed his remarks about "this difficult and painful decision" and went on: "Hear me now: I am not pro-abortion. I am pro-choice."

"Family values" is the slogan set to dominate the politics of the coming months. Hillary Clinton has this week been re-packaged as the working wife and mother who "taught" Bill Clinton the vital importance of education. The Republicans will say that they have family values and the

Democrats, particularly Bill Clinton's baby-boomer team, do not.

Bill Clinton did as much as he could on Thursday night to protect himself from the killer virus of 1992. Twelve-year old Chelsea Clinton, who played little part in the primary campaign, was strongly displayed both on stage and in the promotional film that preceded the big speech. Commenting on the Jennifer Flowers allegations and the television talk show in which the Clintons defended their marriage, she said: "I'm glad that you are my parents." It was one of the biggest cheers of the night.

Republicans have been looking hard at allegations surrounding Governor Clinton's younger brother, Roger, who is linked to a number of alleged cocaine and corruption scandals. As if to say "he's my brother and I have real

family values", the campaign produced Roger Clinton to sing a short solo role in the convention's final anthem.

The scenes after the speech were over roused the spirits of Mr Clinton's supporters more than the speech itself. Old friends and enemies climbed on to the space-age set for the last time and danced before the cameras to the sounds of Fleetwood Mac's song *Don't Stop Thinking About Tomorrow*. Even this piece of rock music was a parable about surviving the strains of modern life and marriage.

The 41st Democratic Convention was minutely planned down to the last note, drumbeat and balloon. The television producers loved it. To judge from telephone talk show reaction yesterday, audiences loved it too.

Today, Bill Clinton and Al Gore, his running mate, set off on the campaign trail bolstered by opinion polls that put the Democrats well ahead of President Bush. Nationwide polls on Thursday night by USA Today-CNN and ABC both gave Mr Clinton a 23-point lead.

The Democrats will now strive to win over those voters whose chief concern — the national debt and deficit — was not directly addressed in New York. The abandoned supporters of Ross Perot are the first target in the bid to turn euphoria into solid political support. Mr Clinton will be encouraged by Thursday's polls, which showed that he was already winning back Democrats who had defected to the Perot camp.

The Republicans, who gather in Houston next month, are going fiercely for the same prize. After the Perotist interlude, America's politicians are back to business: as both sides know it best.

Two weeks ago the Church Universal and Triumphant, a millennialist religious group led by Elizabeth Clare Prophet, began tapping into underground reservoirs of hot water on its ranch ten miles north of the park to fill a swimming pool. Officials pointed out that draining off underground water could wreck the delicate geothermal balance of the park.

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The church has pointed to a geological report which states that its well will not affect the park, and Ms Prophet has claimed that since the bore hole and swimming pool lie on 28,000 acres of private land owned by the church in Paradise Valley, the group should be able to use it or be compensated.

President looks to Baker for inspiration

FROM JAMIE DETTMER IN WASHINGTON

AS DEMOCRATIC and Republican strategists returned to their drawing boards yesterday to plot new campaigns to accommodate the abrupt withdrawal of Ross Perot from the presidential race, there were signs that President Bush is seriously considering asking James Baker, the US Secretary of State, to return to the White House to direct his re-election efforts. Mr Baker masterminded the president's victory in 1988.

Conservatives have been urging President Bush for weeks to replace Samuel S. Hahn, his White House chief of staff, with Mr Baker and to shake-up his campaign. Robert Meesebarger, the titular head of the Bush-Quayle '92 campaign and, like Mr Baker, one of Mr Bush's oldest friends, is among those demanding change.

While Karl Marx may have believed that when history repeats itself, it invariably produces farce, Republican conservatives are not so sure. They are convinced that with Mr Baker once again at the election helm, the drift in Mr Bush's campaign will be corrected. A few weeks ago, as the criticism of Mr Skinner's performance mounted, Mr Bush said that he had no intention of recalling Mr Baker. On Thursday, he broke off a fishing holiday he was taking with Mr Baker to comment on Mr Perot's decision to withdraw from the presidential race. When asked if he was considering any changes, Mr Bush was coy but he refused to close the door on Mr Baker's return. He noted that Mr Baker had a "full portfolio" of diplomatic duties and was very involved in trying to speed up the Middle East peace negotiations. "But after that, who knows?"

He declined to lay the rumours to rest about Mr Baker. "No, I can't resolve it here today at all. I have not talked about this with Jim Baker yet," the president said. He added: "All options are open. I want to win this election and I want the best possible team around me."

Republican sources say that even with Mr Perot out of the way and the race narrowed to a traditional struggle between the Democrats and the Republicans, Mr Bush still faces an uphill struggle. "We had a White House that didn't operate before Perot was a factor and we'll have the same tomorrow without Perot," one Republican on the conservative wing of the party said. "It has to be fixed."

The fact that there is still considerable pressure on Mr Bush to remove Mr Baker is testimony to how well Bill Clinton has done in rejuvenating his party. "We're going to be 22 points down by Monday, and we've got to get our act together," a White House official said.

Mr Baker, who is understood to be considering a 1996 run for the presidency, has told friends that he is reluctant to leave the State Department for front-line campaign duties. Some Republicans suggest he is aware that if things go wrong in a campaign directed by him, he will have severely impaired his own chances in 1996. However, he has told those close to him that he would respond if the president appeals to him for help.

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	Quarterly	10.02	7.51

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PEOPLE

Domingo flies to Seville after opera singer falls to his death

Plácido Domingo, the Spanish tenor, flew from Germany to Seville early yesterday morning after hearing that Annick Josette Luce Taffary, a French opera singer had been killed and 35 others injured, four seriously, during rehearsals for Verdi's *Otello* in which he was due to appear this weekend. He visited the injured and later went to the Maestranza theatre, where the accident occurred. A Seville judge, Andres Palacios, has opened an investigation into why a walkway collapsed and fell more than 20ft.

Olympic gold medalist Nadia Comaneci says things are looking up since her 1989 defection to the United States was marred by scandal. "I think people misunderstood me," the gymnast, 30, said. "I couldn't find a real friend to help me back then, only someone to sell me." Comaneci's defection became grist for the tabloids when she was romantically linked to

fellow Romanian Constantina Panait, a married mother then living in Florida who helped her defect.

A US judge ruled that Warner Brothers had no claim to the merchandising rights of the late actor James Dean. Judge William Byrne said Dean's 1954 contract with the film studio should not be read to give Warner Brothers the right to use the star's name.

President Menem of Argentina has announced that he will donate all his organs for transplant upon his death. The high-living president, who at 62 plays soccer and loves fast cars, said he was bequeathing his body "as an act of love" and an example for others to follow.

Actress Sean Young is trying her hand at country music. She recorded some songs in Nashville and is to perform at

a jamboree in West Virginia. "I always listened to country music as a kid," she said. Young's films include *Wall Street* and *Blade Runner*.

A US appeals court ruled that Jet Williams, the illegitimate daughter of country music legend Hank Williams Sr, is entitled to share the royalties from his songs. Williams, whose real name is Cathy Yvonne Stone, should receive 25 per cent to 33 per cent of the royalties generated by her father's music since 1982.

While most pundits focus on differences between the presidential contenders, Richard Nixon sees a similarity — all are lefties. "They're all left-handers. That's never happened before," Nixon, an avid baseball fan, said about Ross Perot, since withdrawn. Bill Clinton and George Bush. "All baseball men will tell you all left-handers have a tendency to be wild."

Paradise Valley sect drains springs of Old Faithful

THE tranquility of Yellowstone National Park, America's biggest nature reserve, has been broken by a feud between ecologists and members of a fundamentalist sect whose headquarters borders the park. The activities of the faithful, say scientists, are threatening Old Faithful, the huge geyser which is the park's main tourist attraction.

Two weeks ago the Church Universal and Triumphant, a millennialist religious group led by Elizabeth Clare Prophet, began tapping into underground reservoirs of hot water on its ranch ten miles north of the park to fill a swimming pool. Officials pointed out that draining off underground water could wreck the delicate geothermal balance of the park.

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park, why not ten, then a hundred?"

The church has pointed to a geological report which states that its well will not affect the park, and Ms Prophet has claimed that since the bore hole and swimming pool lie on 28,000 acres of private land owned by the church in Paradise Valley, the group should be able to use it or be compensated.

Last year Congress introduced the Old Faithful Protection Act to prevent landowners from tapping into the hot springs around the park, but the legislation foundered in the Senate last month after lobbying by property rights activists. Re-

publicans on the Senate energy committee say that the law may damage property rights.

The tenets of the Church Universal and Triumphant, which settled in the area in 1986, are somewhat eccentric, borrowing from various creeds and concluding that Jesus lived until he was 80 and travelled regularly in India. But in legal and financial matters it is astute.

The sect is demanding \$450,000 (£235,000) if its 450ft well is sealed. The 2.2 million acres of the park, in Wyoming, Montana and Idaho, contain 60 per cent of the world's geysers. Officials and environmentalists fear that other neighbouring landowners, seeking financial profit, may start sinking wells and devastate the ecology, as has already happened in parts of California and Nevada. The Supreme Court has ruled that landowners should be compensated when land use is restricted, but it is not clear how this decision affects environmental bans.

NOTHING MATCHES MINOLTA

THE TIMES SATURDAY JULY 18 1992

Carrington secures ceasefire in Bosnia

By MICHAEL RINYON IN SARAJEVO AND EVE-ANN PRENTICE

THE first slender hope of peace in Bosnia emerged in London yesterday when the former Yugoslav republic's warring factions agreed to put their heavy weapons under United Nations supervision and to begin a 14-day ceasefire tomorrow evening.

The Bosnian leaders also declared that all refugees would be allowed to return home, and agreed to gather in London for more talks on a future constitution for Bosnia on July 27. The last-minute breakthrough in the EC-sponsored talks came after three days of tortuous negotiations

with Haris Silajdzic, the Bosnian foreign minister, Radovan Karadzic, leader of the republic's Serbs, and Mate Boban, the Croat official.

Lord Carrington, chairman of the EC peace conference, admitted that he did not know how the aircraft, artillery, mortars and rocket-launchers in Bosnia would be placed under UN supervision; that was a matter for the UN.

Dr Karadzic later said he was "very optimistic" about the talks, but said that the Serbs were not prepared to surrender heavy weapons. "We're ready to put it under

supervision of the UN, but we're not ready to disarm ourselves in order to make it easier for them to kill us."

Lord Carrington, who was grim-faced and tense after his initial meetings on Wednesday, was relaxed and smiling yesterday. "I have been responsible for a number of ceasefires and most of them have broken down," he said. "But I think this one will be different because of the agreement on heavy weapons. The thing which is encouraging in these talks with Ambassador Cutileiro [the EC negotiator] is that the atmosphere was much more realistic than it had been in previous talks in Lisbon." He added that it was "mildly encouraging" that all three had agreed to come back to London. "I do not want to be too optimistic but not too pessimistic."

Senator Cutileiro, who spent almost three days shuffling between the Bosnian leaders, said: "At the last talks I had with them in Lisbon, they were more unco-operative. Now we have the political will. Whether they are tired of war, I don't know."

The fragile optimism in London came as Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, travelled to Sarajevo, the Bosnian capital. During a brief and hazardous visit, he told President Izetbegovic that the deal negotiated by Lord Carrington would not be another Munich, and no one was suggesting that the Bosnian leader should give up territory.

"We are not going to accept the partition of Bosnia as if it were some Poland of the 18th century that can be split up between rulers of different states without regard to the people who live there," Mr Hurd said after talks in the bomb-damaged presidential palace. The Bosnian leader said any ceasefire would depend on a withdrawal of the heavy artillery that has inflicted massive damage on the city. The Serbs are still pounding several suburbs with mortar and shells each night.

Hurd in Sarajevo, page 1

Beaten dragons look for haven in Europe

FROM TIM JUDAH IN ZAPRESIC, CROATIA

THE Dragons of Bosnia are vanquished. A rag-tag Bosnian army with families in tow yesterday sweltered in suburban Zagreb railway stations as smart commuters looked askance before speeding off for the weekend.

"We have been betrayed," said Mirela Mandic, a 20-year-old girl fighter, still wearing her camouflage jacket with the dragon insignia of the First Bosnian Volunteer Shock Brigade. "Bosnia is Serbia now and Herzegovina is Croatia."

Some 1,500 Bosnian soldiers sat on the tracks or slept in the luggage racks of their crowded train. In another station, women, children and old people awaited a decision on their fate.

The defeated Bosnian troops and their families yesterday threatened to roam Europe looking for a new home. Croatia, already overflowing with refugees, has moved to deport this new group of up to 4,000 people but Austria and Italy have closed their borders to them. Yesterday their trains sat in Zapresic and Savski Marof stations, 10 miles west of Zagreb and close to the Slo-

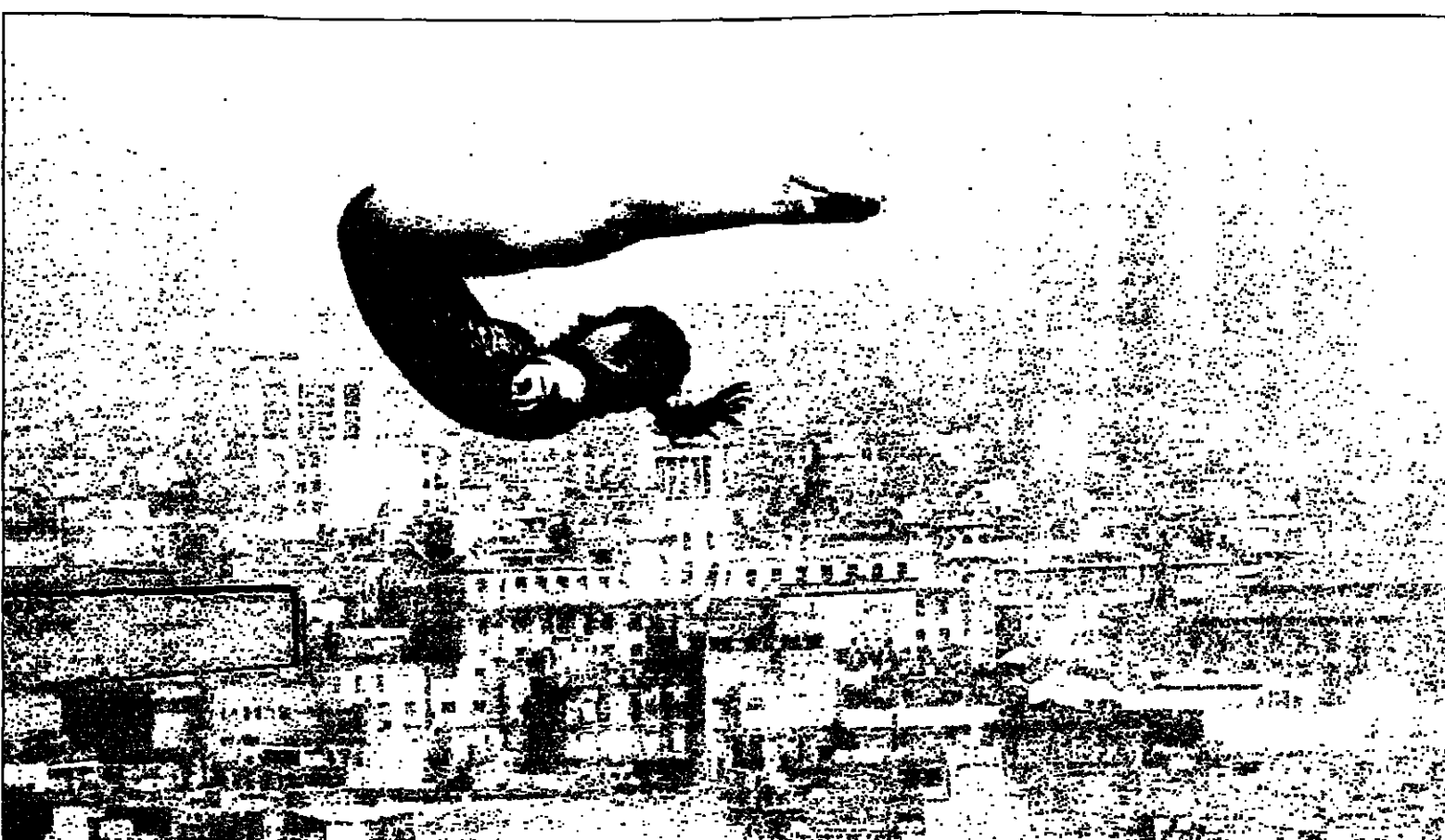
vene frontier, refused entry until another country agrees to take them.

"We don't want to stay here," said Miss Mandic with tears in her eyes. "Why can't they let us go on to Sweden, Norway or Finland or somewhere that has said they will accept us? Here we are nothing." Around her neck she wore a silver Kennedy dollar coin. Its inscription is "Liberty". Until three months ago, she was a medical student.

The Bosnian soldiers, Muslim and Croat, claimed they had been betrayed and that Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic had agreed with his Croat counterpart Mate Boban that the Croats would take western Herzegovina and the Serbs the strategic northern corridor of Bosnia.

"We fought as long as we had support from the Croatian tanks, then last week they pulled them back saying they had to repair them," said one soldier.

Muslim soldiers said that although they were technically Bosnian government troops, in Posavina they had had to take orders from the better-organised and well-armed Bosnian Croat Army.



Skyline diver: Yuki Motobuchi from Nara in Japan practises a ten-metre dive at the municipal pool in Barcelona in preparation for the Olympic Games later this month. In the background are the spires of Antoni Gaudi's unfinished cathedral, the Sagrada Família

Opposition makes Bonn recall MPs

FROM IAN MURRAY IN BONN

THE German parliament is being recalled from its summer recess on Wednesday for a four-hour debate which will cost taxpayers about £12 a second. The opposition Social Democrats (SPD) have exercised their right to question the government's decision to send a destroyer and three spotter aircraft to monitor sanctions-breaking in the Adriatic.

The SPD claims that the government has ignored the constitution by sending Bundeswehr units to join the operation. According to the opposition, the constitution only allows German forces to be used outside Nato's area for humanitarian, environmental protection or relief of natural catastrophes. It is considering asking the Constitutional Court to order the ships and aircraft to return.

France goes ga-ga the American way

Charles Bremner finds the French appetite for American pop art, fast food, fashion and language growing

It has been a standard week for culture in France. On the day the esteemed Festival of Avignon cancelled all shows because of a strike, *Batman Returns* stormed Paris, forcing serious newspapers to put Michelle Pfeiffer on their front pages and sending the critics into reverent adoration of the behemoth from Hollywood.

"A master work," *Libération* said. "Beware of the sensual carwoman," proclaimed *Le Figaro* alongside its page one reports on Maastricht and the Middle East. Perhaps because it eschews pictures, even the curves of Ms Pfeiffer, the august *Le Monde* neglected to praise *Batman*, although it did use its front page last weekend to hail the "ambiguous messianism" of Prince.

Only months after the tizzy over Disney's "cultural Chernobyl", France has lost none of its passion for elevat-

ing American pop, sometimes of dubious quality, to the status of art. They have been doing it long enough, starting with Mallarmé and Baudelaire's "discovery" of Edgar Allan Poe all the way through Jerry Lewis to Mickey Rourke, who featured in a two-hour television film this week.

A few intellectuals may fulminate against *la culture* de Mickey, and Régis Debray and his friends may have just dashed off an appeal to President Mitterrand to save the language, but France is as in love with America as it has ever been. A new arrival from New York can get the

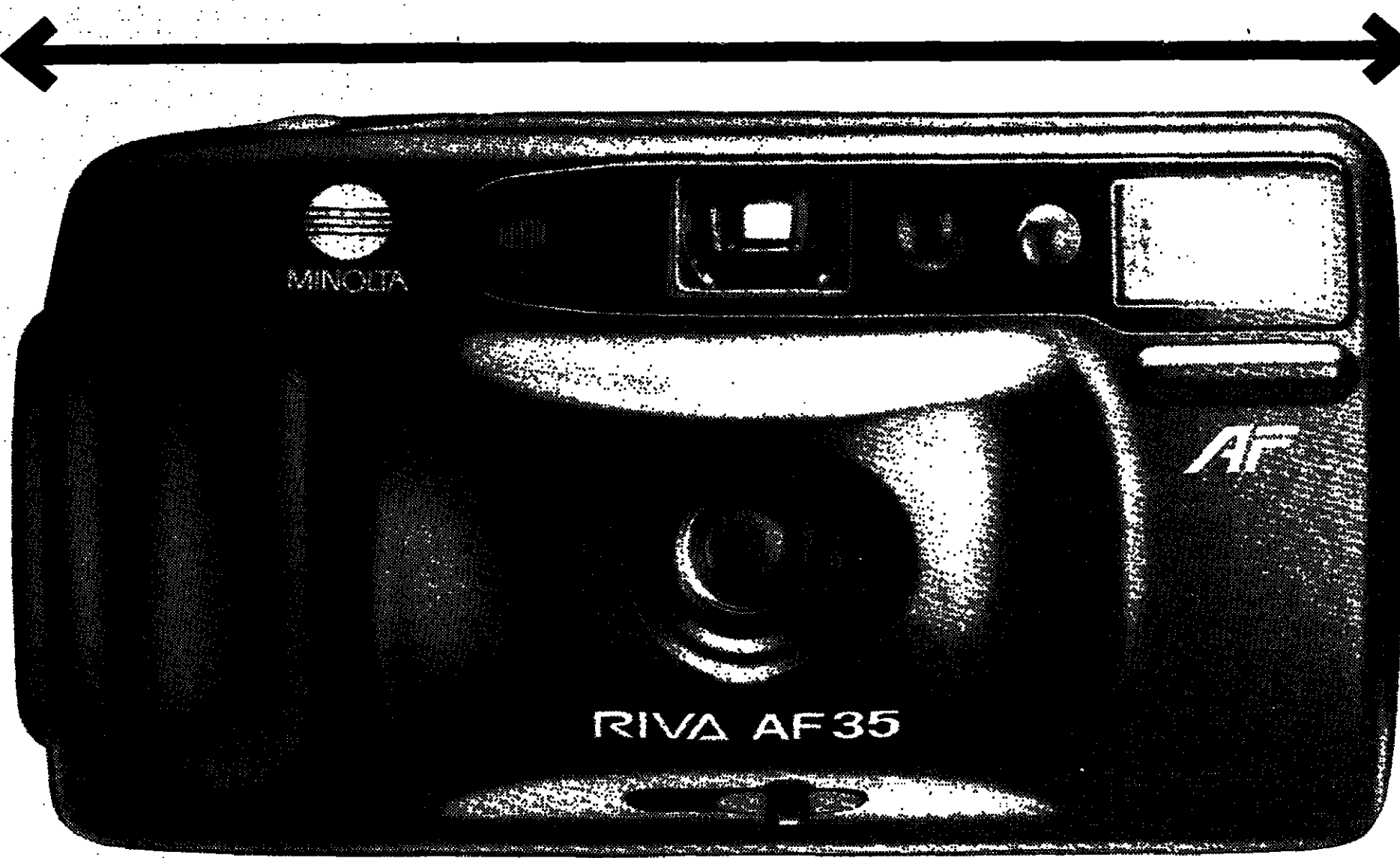
impression of entering a country full of "wannabe" Americans. Harley Davidson has never done such good business, or Levis, Camels or Timberland. *Le style Harlem* has been officially sanctioned since Jack Lang, the once anti-American culture minister, took to admiring *les rappeurs* and approving *les tags*, the graffiti which *jeunes blacks* are spraying around the Métro.

Then there is the youth language which in the past decade has gone from accepting a sprinkle of Americanisms to embracing whole slabs of wordspeak. For example, a young person with a new flight (bomber jacket) might be complimented thus: "C'est bad, ton

look destroy." (Your stunning appearance is great).

The craze for American fashion and language was best explained the other day by Guy Azoulay. As "Charles Cheignon" he has made a fortune marketing pseudo-American clothes and accessories, often emblazoned with slogans such as "bag guaranteed ideal for leisure and job". "C'est une world community," said M Azoulay, speaking French. "Les jeunes veulent avoir le truc (thing) 'be cool', le coté 'fresh and juicy'."

Paul Yonnet, a sociologist, argued the other day that the fascination with rap music and MacDo's (McDonalds) "does not translate as a desire to be American, but rather a desire to identify with certain American roles. So fast-food acts as a system of opposition to traditional French values."

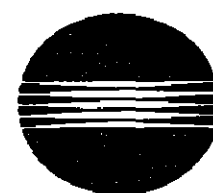


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MINOLTA

Havel resigns as Slovakia asserts its independence

FROM GERARD DAVIES IN PRAGUE

VACLAV Havel will resign as president of Czechoslovakia on Monday, he told MPs after a declaration of Slovak sovereignty over federal laws in Bratislava yesterday.

In a letter to the federal assembly, the former playwright says he would cease working for the federation at 6pm on Monday and promised to give his reasons in a television statement.

Vladimir Meciar, the Slovak leader who has blocked all attempts at electing a new president, easily pushed through the latest stage of his programme towards independence with a vote of 113-24 in the Slovak parliament in favour of sovereignty.

He also managed to thwart attempts to give minorities greater rights by voting against a new law which was particularly aimed at helping the 600,000 Hungarians.

The Hungarian community has now threatened to declare autonomy and government advisers will warn investment plans for the Slovak region on ice, according to sources. Mr Meciar said: "Fi-

nally, after 1,000 years, Slovaks will have the freedom to be themselves and a chance to build a new state."

Left-wing leaders expressed surprise at Mr Havel's decision not to stand for a third round of presidential elections. Right-wing politicians, however, rallied round the president. They described his decision as reasonable, given the recent stalemate in the federal assembly which has jeopardised the programme of economic reform and brought privatisation almost to a standstill.

Mr Havel was to have remained in power until October 5, one week after the September 30 deadline by which the two sides had agreed to find a solution to the constitutional impasse. Government sources now indicate that VACLAV KLAUS, the Czech prime minister, may have persuaded him to stand for a new position of Czech head of state after the failure to find any alternative candidate. Miroslav Sladek, chairman of the far-right Republican Party, attracted only the Slovak vote in Thursday's sec-

ond round of the presidential elections.

Mr Klaus blamed the constitution for allowing the Slovaks to gain such power. In spite of two years of tough negotiations and more than 70 amendments, it is still fundamentally communist. The Slovak cabinet now consists of about two-thirds former communists, with serious allegations of secret police involvement against a number of senior figures, including Mr Meciar himself.

Mr Klaus said: "The Slovaks' proclamation was enabled by the communist constitution of 1978. I believe the business people coming from the West to the Czech republic will now understand very well its situation as the only one post-communist nation



which has sailed on to the sea of market economy without problems."

Jan Carnogursky, a former Slovak prime minister whose Christian Democratic Movement is now in opposition and voted against the declaration of sovereignty, said Mr Havel's decision would harm Slovakia's image. The world will link the president's resignation with the adoption of the declaration of Slovak sovereignty and it is bound to be received negatively, Mr Carnogursky said.

Jozef Moravcik, a Slovak and Czechoslovakia's new foreign minister, called Mr Havel's decision "one of the steps that will lead to a new state set-up". The president was sure to become firmly embedded in the structures of the Czech republic, he said.

In Bonn last night the German government expressed regret at Mr Havel's resignation, hailing his often lonely role as a pathfinder of democracy in Eastern Europe. Klaus Kinkel, the foreign minister, said Mr Havel's "personal integrity has strengthened the meaning of human and moral values in politics".



Curtain call: VACLAV HAVEL, playwright president of Czechoslovakia, who is to resign on Monday

Wave of strikes sweeps Poland

FROM PATRICIA KOZA IN WARSAW

HANNA SUCHOCKA, prime minister of Poland, is facing the first threat to her week-old government. Thousands of coal miners and aviation workers are on strike, while copper miners and steelworkers are threatening to follow suit.

Strikes spread yesterday from Silesia to the Lublin coal basin, where workers at one mine took action over higher pay. Workers from six Silesian mines called off their strikes after reaching agreements, leaving two others on strike.

Managers are under tremendous pressure as well from the government, which is urging them not to assume obligations they cannot hope to meet. "Even if I collect enough money for the increases, I will do it at the cost of falling deeper into debt," said Jozef Parnian, director of the Rozbark mine, one of the first to settle.

There are 70 coal mines in Poland, many unprofitable despite the fact that coal is Poland's biggest foreign currency earner. Seven are being closed and ten more are at risk because of a government restructuring plan.

The unrest in the coalfields has spread to other sectors. Some 10,000 workers at the giant Mielec aircraft plant in southeast Poland are demanding back pay for June and a pay rise that would put them at the national average of 996 a month. The plant, which makes military helicopters and parts for Soviet MiG fighters, has already laid off half its 20,000-strong workforce and more layoffs are expected.

The 40,000 copper miners will decide on Monday whether to strike, which would cripple another vital sector. Poland is the world's seventh biggest copper producer. A strike committee was formed at the huge Sendzimir steel mill outside Krakow - formerly called the Lenin works - whose demands include a doubling of wages.

Miss Suchocka promised in her inaugural speech to work out a pact with the trade unions that would allow the government to implement reforms but still pursue an anti-recession policy. Jacek Kuron, the labour minister, said the government would present specific proposals within the next two weeks.

But Miss Suchocka also warned workers not to expect the privileges they had enjoyed under communist rule. "The time for demands is over, and it is time to ask ourselves what we can offer Poland," she said.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Brussels plans EC secrets act

Brussels: European Community governments are considering a Brussels proposal for an official secrets act, which would involve the vetting by national authorities of all citizens with access to sensitive information (Tom Walker writes).

The idea was mooted in 1988 by the German government, which encouraged the European Commission to draw up guidelines that are now being discussed in the Council of Ministers. A German spokesman confirmed yesterday that the proposal would be on the council agenda after the summer break.

Although Britain has expressed disquiet over the proposals, a source said yesterday that a new text could win Whitehall approval. Britain and Germany feel a secrets act would be appropriate to future EC common policy in areas like defence.

Cuban defects

Madrid: Ernesto Wong, the intelligence chief at the Cuban embassy here, has defected and sought political asylum in Spain, less than a week before Fidel Castro, Cuba's leader, is scheduled to visit Madrid. He is currently under police protection. (AP)

Target moved

Geneva: Majority agreement has been reached on bringing forward the target date for phasing out ozone-depleting chemicals to 1995 from the year 2000 set in the Montreal protocol. This was announced after a meeting of 60 signatory nations.

Trip blocked

Caracas: The Venezuelan Congress unanimously refused to let President Perez attend the Ibero-American heads of state meeting in Spain next week, saying the political situation at home was too unstable for him to travel. (AP)

Border sealed

Teknaf: Burma has deployed thousands of troops and heavy artillery along its border with Bangladesh after cancelling talks on the repatriation of an estimated 270,000 Burmese Muslim refugees from southern Bangladesh.

Slug surprise

Tokyo: Japanese police arrested a man for stuffing a rival firm's bean curd with cockroaches and slugs. Isao Onishi put insect-contaminated tofu among the other firm's supermarket displays as a way of protecting his business. (Reuters)

Kiev's clinics run out of painkillers

Using abortion as a means of birth control is under review in the former republics, Robert Seely writes in Kiev

Shortages of basic medicines are forcing some women in Ukraine to undergo abortions without anaesthetics, according to senior doctors here.

Where stocks of medicines have dwindled, women must either pay a hard currency or ruble "tip" to nurses or porters to provide anaesthetics or forgo any use of painkillers. Anaesthetics have joined the list of medicines whose black market prices have risen as official supplies have fallen. As well as painkillers, children's medicines are a highly valued commodity. Professor Giorgi Khodorovsky, chairman of the country's parliamentary committee on maternity, said: "The situation is profitable for those who want to supply drugs. As you say in English, it can be arranged."

Abortion is still the principal form of contraception throughout the former Soviet Union. In Russia, where four million abortions are performed annually, 400 women die and 800,000 have "serious complications" every year after the operation, according to a recent article in *Moskopa Pravda*.

The mortality rate is caused, according to Dr Olga Baran, a senior gynaecologist at Kiev's specialised abortion clinic, by doctors' lack of training. Her clinic carries out 60 abortions a day, four at a time in rooms screened from the main hall by glass

tiles. Provided the foetus is under 12 weeks old, a woman need only bring her passport to qualify for an abortion. Anaesthetics at Dr Baran's clinic are given as standard.

As a method of contraception, abortion's popularity with doctors is waning. There are no moral arguments of the kind that divide opinion in the West, but rising costs have worried governments. After a series of price rises this year, the Ukrainian state will spend upwards of 600 million rubles paying for about 950,000 abortions, according to Professor Khodorovsky.

Other artificial forms of contraception in Ukraine are still rare. Last year the state imported 42 million condoms from North Korea and China, countries not known for their scientific expertise in this field. "Let's assume that there are 12 million fertile men in Ukraine: that's three and a half condoms per man per year," said the professor.

This year state agencies only plan to import 15 million condoms and there is no order for contraceptive pills because of a lack of hard currency. Although tampons have been produced in Ukraine for several years - the result of an Anglo-Ukrainian joint venture - the only factories producing contraceptives are in Kazakhstan and St Petersburg.

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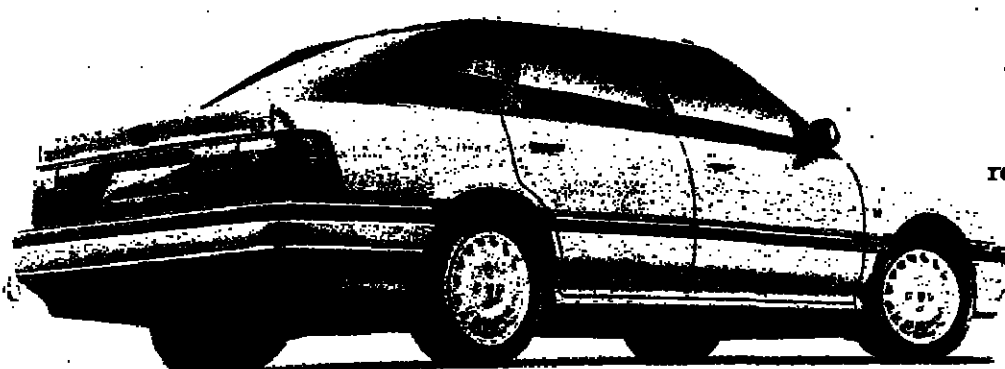
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Clifford Longley

The papacy endures as an elective dictatorship

Attention has turned to a possible change in the most enduringly powerful elected office in the world — not the presidency of the United States of America but the papacy. George Bush has done nearly four years and may do four more. Karol Wojtyła, John Paul II, has been Bishop of Rome since 1978. He could do 14 more: at 72 he appears to be coping with major surgery this week better than men half his age.

Joseph Stalin once asked: how many divisions has the Pope? The mockery behind the question has long rebounded on its author. The papacy, for all the unfashionability of the hierarchical system it heads, clearly thrives. The soulless materialism of communism could not meet the spiritual and moral needs of generations born under Marxism. They looked for something else. Throughout eastern Europe the symbol of that something else was the man in the Vatican. He was visible. He had a name and a vision, and extraordinary personal magnetism.

Of the forces undermining the Stalinist empire in Eastern Europe, pride of place must go to Solidarity in Poland. What inspired and sustained that, in turn, was the example and encouragement of its most famous son, the former cardinal archbishop of Kraków. And it was religion, largely but not exclusively the Roman Catholic variety, which inspired and sustained the courage of many dissenters in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union.

But what sustained them, exactly? The Vatican is not a democracy, more an Italian Renaissance absolute monarchy. Only on the death of a pope does the diocese of Rome revert to being one of the world's oldest democratic institutions. It elects a new bishop — a pope is fundamentally Bishop of Rome — by secret ballot of the city's parish priests, and candidates are drawn from among their number. The parish priests of Rome are of course only titularly so; they are in fact the cardinals of the Catholic Church worldwide (each given a Roman church for the sake of preserving the principle).

They are — as was Wojtyła — some of the greatest men in each of the 100 or so countries they come from. They are also, in any conclave called to elect a new pope, an electoral college with one man, one vote. The Catholic Church is the primary example of an elective dictatorship.

Yet except in papal conclaves, it is the hierarchical principle rather than the democratic one which characterises the government of the Catholic Church. Much is made of the way the church's hierarchical model of authority is out of step with the supposedly democratic spirit of the modern age. But the modern world should be careful not to believe its own myths. Most secular institutions — hospitals, orchestras, armies, newspapers — are run hierarchically.

Under a hierarchy, appointments are handed down and authority is delegated from above. The hierarchical principle reaches to its grass-roots, to the bottom layers of a pyramidal power structure, not for a democratic mandate, but merely for information on which to base its decisions. Its authority comes from elsewhere.

One of the great debates between the Reformers and the papacy in the 16th century was about church government, about whether hierarchy — "prelacy" — was a reliable or a dangerous system for running the Christian church. Behind the debate, which is by no means closed even in the Catholic Church, are two views not just of church authority, but also of how history works. The principle of hierarchy supposes that great deeds and great movements depend above all on the impact of a few powerful and charismatic individuals. These are the tiny minority of history-shapers in whose affairs the rest of mankind are more or less powerless caught up.

The history of Christianity, with Christ and his apostles being followed by a succession of conspicuous leaders — the church's saints, popes, fathers and doctors up to the present day — seems to support that view. The Catholic Church's papal system, the hierarchical principle incarnate, is deliberately designed to find and mould a "big man" — to make the church's earthly head a major world leader, not a mere spokesman for majority opinion. This creates the possibility of such a man changing the direction of history. It is precisely that aim which also justifies the American presidential system, though the papacy has had the longer practice and perhaps so far the greater success.

Alan Hamilton wonders who would gain if the sovereign had to answer to the Inland Revenue

Should the Queen pay tax?

There has been a summer flurry of interest in the Queen's money. Last week several MPs built up a minor, and largely self-seeking, head of steam when it dawned on them, rather late in the day, that the Civil List had been fixed by the last and recently ennobled prime minister for ten years at what in a period of low inflation is proving to be a moderately generous level, and they had therefore no opportunity to examine it in select committee for cost-effectiveness.

Then, earlier this week, it was disclosed that the Queen, allegedly a woman of fabulous personal riches, had applied to the Treasury Commission for a £300,000 grant to build a fence on her privately-owned and loss-making Balmoral estate. Conservation grants are available to woodland owners to keep out the omnipresent red deer, which nibble young trees to death as effectively as any swarm of locusts, but it did not go unnoticed that on this occasion the applicant to the public purse was the sole British citizen who

is absolved without question from paying income tax.

Thirdly, the Crown Estate has just produced its annual accounts, showing that in a period of severe recession, especially in the property sector, it still managed to hand over a surplus of £71 million to the exchequer. The estate is a constitutional anomaly, traditionally surrendered by the monarch at the beginning of each reign; defenders of the monarch's tax exemption argue strongly that its profits more than compensate for the income tax the Queen does not pay.

Others, including the Prince of Wales, have argued that the estate should revert to the Crown and provide its income, thus removing the royal finances from the unseemly public arena. The income could even be higher, which at the present higher rate of 40 per cent would still have left £43 million this year. But to return the estate to the Crown would be in effect to privatise the monarchy and turn the Queen into just another landowner, indistinguishable from, say, the Duke of Westminster, except that, of the two, he is said to be the richer.

Unfortunately, as the advertisements in another section of this newspaper are obliged to remind us, investments can go down as well as up. A shortfall on estate profits could mean the monarch going crown in hand to Parliament to beg a subsidy to keep the yacht afloat or the rain out of Windsor Castle. The overall cost of the monarchy, including palaces, royal yacht, Queen's Flight and all the other paraphernalia, is estimated by the Royal Trustees at about £56 million a year.

There is a strong feeling abroad, given voice by last summer's private member's bill introduced by the Liberal Democrat MP, Simon Hughes, that the Queen's tax exemption should be ended, especially now that it is realised that monarchs did pay their taxes until George VI negotiated exemption. The details remain a mystery, as the relevant papers have curiously vanished from the Public Record Office.

The present government is highly unlikely to support any moves to extract income tax from the Queen; the Hughes bill never had any chance of success. But the population at large, judging by a large number of opinion polls in recent months, are in favour of the monarch filling in her tax form like everyone else. What they do not fully grasp is quite how complicated a document it would be.

What do you tax? The Civil List? That would seem pointless, handing out a grant and then taking some of it back. The revenues of the Duchy of Lancaster, now about £3 million a year? Perhaps, but the Queen uses much of that income for official and semi-official purposes, such as her clothes (a legitimate working expense in her case) and reimbursing the Civil List payments to her cousins the Kents and Gloucesters. She would no doubt wish to claim all those as allowable expenses.

That leaves her private income, the size of which is often guessed at, sometimes wildly, but which in truth remains unknown. George VI inherited £750,000 from his father; after buying Sandringham and Balmoral from his abdication brother, he was left with £480,000 — about £15 million at today's values. Those investments, wisely husbanded, will

have grown, but the Queen has undoubtedly drawn heavily on both capital and income over the years.

In 1971 Lord Cobbold, the then Lord Chamberlain, told a Commons select committee that the sovereign's personal wealth were a wild exaggeration. Those magazine league tables which list the Queen's as the world's richest woman at £6.6 billion are also hopelessly off beam, as they tend to include the crown jewels, the royal picture collection and other items which by law or custom belong to the nation, or at least the institution of the crown, rather than to the individual.

Best possible estimates indicate a true personal holding of something around £50 million. Allow an annual income of 10 per cent, tax that at 40 per cent, and you arrive at a yield to the Inland Revenue of £1.2 million. This would be small beer in the grand scheme of things, but a gesture that would bring her immeasurably closer to her suffering subjects.

Labour's owl of the remove

John Smith needs to prove himself a radical as Labour leader, Peter Riddell says

John Smith paused when I asked him which previous Labour leader he most admired and would now seek to emulate. No, not Harold Wilson, who had made him a minister in 1974 but whom he had not really known. He was not a good example, Mr Smith then mentioned the achievements of Attlee, now accepted as one of Labour's best leaders — he knew "what the right thing was and did it".

The most underestimated Labour leader, he suggested, was James Callaghan, who never had the chance for a full term. It was not just that Lord Callaghan had made him the youngest cabinet minister in 1978. Mr Smith said he was "extremely skilful. I was impressed by his avuncular judgment." The choice is revealing since Lord Callaghan displays some of the strengths, self-confidence and decisiveness, and weaknesses, caution and reluctance to confront internal splits, which critics see in Mr Smith.

Mr Smith's election is curiously double-edged. He will become leader later this afternoon by an overwhelming majority, virtual acclamation. But he takes over amid faint praise by outside commentators, political opponents and many in his own party. The right leader for the last election, the wrong generation, a Scot out-of-touch with southern England, "our manager" for the bank manager, boring and the author of Labour's tax plans at the election are among widely-heard complaints.

Nobody disputes his brains, his debating skills and his incisiveness. Like Attlee, he has little patience with woolly arguments. One shadow cabinet colleague says he is liable to

A WEEK IN POLITICS

interrupt somebody who is plainly waffling and say, "I just don't understand what you are talking about." The now uncertain waffler is then subject to a vigorous cross-examination. Journalists also know to beware when, in his best barrister's manner, Mr Smith answers a question by saying "with respect" or, even more ominously, "with great respect".

Mr Smith could have prospered at the Bar. In 1982, when he still occasionally took on a case in the summer to supplement his parliamentary pay, he was retained to defend a pilot and a navigator of an RAF Phantom who were charged with criminal negligence after accidentally shooting down a Jaguar, whose crew were able to bail out.

In all the formality of a field general court martial, he argued that it was a case of ordinary negligence in view of the lack of organisation at the airfield. His clients received just a severe reprimand and are still flying.

He remains one of the best debaters in the House of Commons, a talent he learned when he had to capture the attention of irreverent audiences at Glasgow University in the late 1980s. One Labour MP remembers when he led the party's team on an employment bill in the mid-1980s. He would wander into the standing committee, listen to the debate, pick up the main threads and deliver a withering attack on the government.

In contrast to Neil Kinnock, who shines in conference speeches, Mr Smith is at his best

in the more conversational and forensic style of the Commons. He knows how to win over an audience by making a joke. He delivered his banter over the Western affair in early 1986, when ministers were "all over the place", which delighted Labour MPs and established his national reputation. Shadow chancellor for the past five years, he most enjoyed his exchanges with Nigel Lawson — the "hand-to-hand combat day after day" of the 1987 to 1989 period. He has no particular feelings about John Major, whom he faced

directly for a year. But the prime minister should not be complacent; Mr Smith promises to be a sharp and witty adversary at prime minister's questions.

The main doubt about Mr Smith is whether he is too much the tightly disciplined advocate to inspire his party. He has been committed to a political career since his student days. But he is no dour Presbyterian barrister. He used his knowledge of Scottish seats to win a "substantial" sum of money on the results at the 1966 election. This helped to finance his way to the Bar.

Mr Smith has to communicate his warmth. Any conversation is fun, full of often earthy stories about the vagaries of politics. He will also need to overcome doubts about his health. The Rev Norman Faulds is holding a special morning golf service and has even organised a putting championship in the church aisles. Faulds, the minister at Gullane Parish Church, who boasts a handicap of 17, has written a sermon for the occasion complete with religious references to "Faith and your putter" and "Par through prayer". The hour-long

ish Labour Party and his future chief of staff, who has managed 160 Murros after a heart transplant.

Even Mr Smith's friends admit that he is not interested in political ideas as such, in the way that his younger allies such as Gordon Brown and Tony Blair are. He sees ideas as a means to an end. But he has firm political convictions based on his Scottish background. Self-consciously not part of London society, he believes he is "more critical of the institutions of the English establishment". He has sympathy with the attempts of Lord Mackay, the Lord Chancellor and a fellow Scot, to reform the English legal system. He talks warmly about Scotland — the value his countrymen place on state education and skills. Still a member of the Church of Scotland, he believes politics is essentially a moral activity. He has an income core of beliefs which his confidence translates into policies without an agonised intellectual debate. He rejects suggestions that he does not understand southern England, arguing that he knows how Labour can attract middle-class voters, because of its success in doing so in Scotland.

Party critics question whether his strategy will be just to wait for the Tories to trip over the economy. For the past three months, he has left all his options open and he will remain relaxed about a continuing policy debate. He is trusted by members of the left, such as Tony Benn, whom he served as an energy minister. This is in spite of being on the right of the party.

Allies argue that, in spite of his instinctive caution, he can be decisive when he is persuaded of a case, more so than Mr Kinnock. He was, after all, responsible for Labour's much-criticised redistributive tax plans before the election. So, if during the arguments of the next year or so he is convinced of the need for radical change, radical change there will be.

Mr Smith has yet to show whether he is prepared to be as tough as Mr Kinnock. Later today he will give the overwhelming authority, as Lord Callaghan never had, to initiate such changes and to show whether he is more than a safe caretaker.



...and moreover

PHILIP HOWARD

The world is going through its biggest change of names since the fall of the Tower of Babel, which is good news for map-makers, but bad news for journeymen and children half-way through a geography course. What the world is doing is what the Sanskrit word *Simha*, a lion. So for the last 20 years we have learned to call it by the less divisive name of Sri Lanka, which means "resplendent island". But the old name has deep roots in English history, literature and the nomenclature of plants, which cannot be rubbed out. One of the most popular verses in the hymnary preserves it: "What though the spicy breezes/ Blow soft o'er Ceylon's isle/ Though every prospect pleases/ And only man is vile." Recognising that the stress did not work with Ceylon, causing even more incoherence than usual in the back pew, Bishop Heber later amended Ceylon to Java. But it is his original version that has stuck in the national memory, perhaps because of its poor prosody. The old imperialist name of Burma, *pasim* in Kipling and other explorers in the 15th century named the hump of Africa the Gold Coast because of the gold they picked up for baubles there. It is not surprising that the inhabitants, when they got control of their country, preferred to change its name to Ghana. In South Africa the names imposed on the natives by their invaders were equally partisan. "Kaffir" means a non-Mohammedan, ie an infidel, and is one of many instances of the influence exercised by the great medieval Arab traders and explorers and soldiers upon the Indo-European languages.

"Hottentot" is a Dutch echoic word for a stutterer, and refers to the predominant clicks of Xhosa speech.

Ceylon and Sinhalese were the names given to the island by its Aryan conquerors in the 5th century. The words may be connected with the Sanskrit *Simha*, a lion. So for the last 20 years we have learned to call it by the less divisive name of Sri Lanka, which means "resplendent island". But the old name has deep roots in English history, literature and the nomenclature of plants, which cannot be rubbed out. One of the most popular verses in the hymnary preserves it: "What though the spicy breezes/ Blow soft o'er Ceylon's isle/ Though every prospect pleases/ And only man is vile." Recognising that the stress did not work with Ceylon, causing even more incoherence than usual in the back pew, Bishop Heber later amended Ceylon to Java. But it is his original version that has stuck in the national memory, perhaps because of its poor prosody. The old imperialist name of Burma, *pasim* in Kipling and other explorers in the 15th century named the hump of Africa the Gold Coast because of the gold they picked up for baubles there. It is not surprising that the inhabitants, when they got control of their country, preferred to change its name to Ghana. In South Africa the names imposed on the natives by their invaders were equally partisan. "Kaffir" means a non-Mohammedan, ie an infidel, and is one of many instances of the influence exercised by the great medieval Arab traders and explorers and soldiers upon the Indo-European languages.

The latest people to change their names in the endless and hopeless search for geographical correctness are the Eskimos. Their name was first brought into English by Hakluyt and the other merchant adventurers in the 16th century. Eskimo means "eaters of raw meat" in Algonquian, and is therefore considered politically rude. Because of their linguistic diversity, Canadians are admirably fierce about fairness in nomenclature. The inhabitants of the Arctic are now by their preference known as the Inuit. This just means people: the singular is Inuk. They belong to the linguistic stock named Eskimo-Aleut (or Eskaleut) for its two main branches. The Aleuts on the Aleutian Islands of Alaska, are one branch. The larger branch, Eskimo, has a major division near the Bering Strait. On one side, the Yupik comprise at least five separate languages in eastern Siberia and central and southern Alaska. On the other, the Inuit extend from northern Alaska to Greenland, including all of Arctic Canada. Throughout their vast distribution over the frozen north, the Inuit speak a single language, Inuktitut, although in a number of regional dialects.

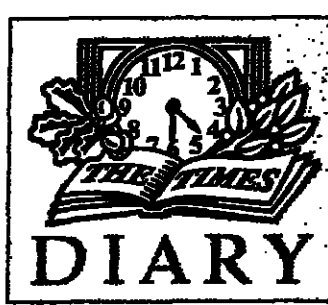
So that is what we are going to have to learn to call them. Eskimo, and the husky dogs which pull their sledges and derive their name from Eskimo, influenced by the colloquial sense of *husky*, meaning tough, will survive in the language as fossils of an heroic age.

Too plain John Smith

ANYONE hoping to find skeletons in John Smith's closet is likely to be disappointed. Those who have dug deep into his past have found so little of any interest that the BBC's *Panorama* has cancelled a programme about the new Labour leader's background. The Briton biographer of John Major, so often derided as the grey man, seems dynamic and fun-punctured by comparison.

Michael Crick, a *Panorama* researcher, spent four weeks delving into Smith's background, involving numerous trips to Scotland. He came back empty-handed. Crick is prevented by his contract from discussing why the programme was shelved but says: "The interesting thing about politicians is how their views evolve and how they change their positions. Tony Benn and Neil Kinnock being good examples. John Smith is so solid and consistent that what he says today is what he was saying in 1958".

Publishers have also backed away. A new party leader can usually expect a potboiler to hit the bookshelves within months. When Neil Kinnock became Labour leader in 1983, the journalist Robert Harris produced an instant book. Several biographies of Bill Clinton are already in the pipeline in America and when John Major succeeds Margaret Thatcher there will be no less than three books within six months. But Giles Gordon, literary agent to, among others, Prince Charles, Sir Bernard Ingham and Peter Ackroyd, says there is no prospect of a Smith biography. "I cannot think of anything more boring. There is no interest in a book on John Smith anywhere. A maga-



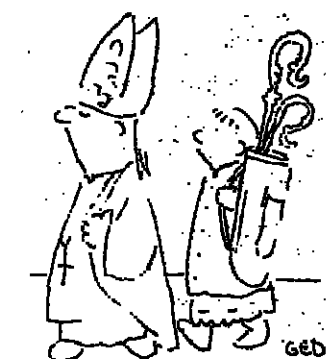
zine article would be the limit of my interest — and a pretty short one at that.

Crick, in the early stages of his television research, also suggested a Smith biography to his agent. He met a similarly unenthusiastic response. "I was told frankly that nobody would want to read it and I was advised that if I must do a politician, I should find someone with a somewhat more interesting and varied career. I am doing Jeffrey Archer instead."

At least one guest at today's wedding of Lady Helen Windsor to Tim Taylor has had the good taste to go outside the now infamous and much publicised present list. Alongside the *Super Nintendo*, the *JVC Camcorder* and the *Hopkins washing machine*, Leslie Waddington, who employs Taylor at his Cork Street galleries, has decided on an altogether more refined gift. Waddington was saying nothing yesterday but had decided that the young couple need to realise at the outset that there is more to married life than a new fondue set. The blissful couple's immaculate new show-house furniture and state-of-the-art gadgetry will be complemented by a very superior canvas by one of the young school of British artists whose work the gallery has championed.

The par of prayer

BEFORE Ian Woosnam and Nick Faldo tee off at Muirfield on the final day of the British Open tomorrow, they may consider a visit to the local parish church for inspiration. The Rev Norman Faulds is holding a special morning golf service and has even organised a putting championship in the church aisles. Faulds, the minister at Gullane Parish Church, who boasts a handicap of 17, has written a sermon for the occasion complete with religious references to "Faith and your putter" and "Par through prayer". The hour-long



service will also include a member of the congregation eating a golf ball (really), tales of Mary Queen of Scots on the tees and references to the historic union between golf and the Church of Scotland. Heaven may be full of angels singing. Sunday's congregation would surely settle for birds...

This year's International Who's Who, published next week, begins to read more like a raid on the files of Interpol. Take, for example, General Antonio Noriega, whose up-to-the-minute entry reads: "Found guilty of eight of

ten charges (money laundering, cocaine manufacturing and distribution, racketeering and the building of a drug laboratory in Panama in April 1992). Similar details of Winnie Mandela's imprisonment are given in full. The crimes of Erich Honecker are not detailed, but his entry reads: "still residing in the Chilean embassy in Moscow" says it all.

Maxwell house party

IAN and Kevin Maxwell are about to become tourist attractions. Their homes are on a Tinseltown-style attraction to be launched in London later this month with guided bus tours showing tourists the homes of some of the capital's best-known residents.

Such houses have been big business in Hollywood for years, but this kind of voyeurism is believed to be new to London. Included on the itinerary will be the London pied-à-terre of Joan Collins, Margaret Thatcher, Tina Turner, as well as assorted royals, politicians and peers.

Yet perhaps the most unlikely diversion will be to Chelsea and Belgravia to the houses of the Maxwell brothers. The company's owner, Henry Powell, says: "We are keen to include anyone who has recently been in the news. Each house has a particular story to tell and this will be recounted as we pass." These will even include anecdotes about the death of Jimi Hendrix at the Samarkand Hotel in Holland Park and mysterious tales of Lady Lucan in Eaton Square. "But it is not like the Hollywood tour at all," insists Powell. "We have more of a history than they do." Quite so. But thousands of Mirror pensioners will surely be hoping that the day a blue plaque is erected declaring "Kevin Maxwell lived here" is still a very long way off.

THE TIMES SATURDAY JULY 18 1992



CLINTON'S CHALLENGE

The American Democrats have given their candidate, Governor Bill Clinton, a rousing send-off down the long final stretch to election day. For all Mr Clinton's evocations of Roosevelt and Kennedy, he showed little of their flair in presenting his "new covenant" to the American voters. Oratory is unlikely to be his best asset. But he has not relied on felicitous phrases to unite, in Ross Perot's words "revitalize", his fissiparous party.

Rather, he has out-manoeuvred its powerful pressure groups to present a modern and distinctive platform, free of the obsessions with minority rights and redistributive economics to which his predecessors deferred. He yesterday persuaded an indulgent audience that he has the standing and energy to carry the new-look Democratic party through the doors of the White House.

The "character" issue remains Mr Clinton's toughest problem. He has survived the charges of adultery and draft evasion, but not without scars. George Bush will be tempted to focus his campaign on the unacceptability of his challenger, and can now do so without fear of driving the voters into Mr Perot's arms. Mr Clinton's defence — his record as an effective governor of Arkansas — carries within it the weakness that his career shows him to be a classical politician in a year when Americans are more distrustful of them than ever.

Mr Clinton can be expected to give Mr Bush a stronger run for his money than did Michael Dukakis in 1988, provided he avoids the temptation, common to presidential campaigns and common still to a leader in the polls, to skirt the substance of policy in favour of well-soaped flannel. Both he and his running mate, Al Gore, have made change their leitmotif. This is a riskier strategy than it was for the British Labour Party last April. While America's highest office has eluded the Democrats for a dozen years they have been running most of the country, with majorities in Congress and in most cities and states. Mr Clinton must

convince voters not only that he would bring change to the presidency, but that Democrat policies themselves have changed.

He has pointed the direction with courage and set out his stall with more clarity than has Mr Bush. He has sensed that the time is right for attacking Mr Bush as a status quo president. Confidence is low, unemployment high and the economy stubbornly sluggish. Mr Clinton's "new covenant" is aimed at merging traditional Democrat concerns with good citizenship and civil liberty, together with new emphasis on economic growth, open markets and a lean government offering help for self-help.

But he will have to risk being more specific about how he proposes to "invest in people" and, above all, how the people are going to pay for the investment. Vagueness about money will lay Mr Clinton open to "tax and spend" taunts. Too much candour could attack a Republican for creating America's budget deficit and also promise to save \$300 billion in four years, unless he is more specific about what he means by "tough choices". Having pledged himself to increase taxes for the rich but not the middle classes Mr Clinton will be under the same pressure as was Labour in Britain to say where he draws the line.

These difficulties are at this stage merely challenges to the Clinton-Gore team. Mr Clinton's insistence on an America "with the world's strongest defence, ready and willing to use force" has been aligned with Mr Gore's firm record of internationalism. This may reduce Mr Bush's lead in foreign policy, the only area in which he is now ahead. Mr Clinton has so far resisted protectionist lobbies in pro-Democrat unions, accepting the link between growth, open markets and a functioning GATT system. At home, his practical tolerance on race has healing promise. Since the withdrawal of Ross Perot, the electoral arithmetic may be against Mr Clinton. But he offers America debate and choice, which is to his credit.

RETURNED TO NATURE

Visitors to the British countryside this summer may be dismayed by much of what they see. Over the past four years, some 4,500 farmers have left fields fallow under the European Community's "set aside" scheme. The amount of land is not great, some 155,000 hectares or about three per cent of the area previously under arable cultivation. But the visual impact is considerable. Under the recently-agreed common agricultural policy reforms, the set-aside area is likely to rise to about 600,000 hectares.

Fields that once boasted neat furrows or ranks of corn, or the thick vivid colouring of rape or lucerne, are now weeds and tares. Unsprayed and untended, apart from being mown twice a year, the land is returning to its natural state, or at least the state dictated by the most vigorous available wind-borne seeds. Scrubland is reviving. Strange and possibly unwelcome flora and fauna are proliferating. To the neat farmer and to those who like their countryside prim, the consequences of set-aside are awful. To make matters worse, farmers are being paid for it — over £20 million a year — and being criticised for being paid for it.

Two responses to this are possible. One is to conclude that returning a small portion of cultivated land to nature is no bad thing, even if it looks a bit scruffy. After the pummeling and poisoning of decades of agricultural innovation, an era of rest and recuperation is in order. Farmers may not like to see their beloved fields full of the arch-enemy, the weed. But to city-dwellers fed up with seeing public money wasted on unwanted food, a less manicured landscape is not necessarily odious, particularly if the weeds happen to be poppies. Since it is they who are paying for it, their feelings as much as those of the farming community are what matters. The developed world produces more than it can possibly consume and has been spending an obscene amount of money disposing of the surplus. Set-aside is at least a simple remedy.

ENGLAND'S EDGE

John Major yesterday paid his first visit to the county of England that boasts of having the strongest local flavour and individuality. The prime minister was given a thoroughly Cornish welcome, with a jaunt to a factory that makes traditional Cornish pasties for export. He did not go down a tin mine. The industry that attracted the first prehistoric tourists to Cornwall has dwindled from its boom millennia, when a Cornish vicar said that he never saw the greater part of his parishioners till they came up to be buried.

None the less, burlly Cornish fishermen waved placards against new European Community regulations and demonstrated the granite independence for which Cornishmen are famous throughout the land. There is a different country across the Tamar. They call visitors from outside emnets, swarming everywhere in summer like ants, or English, because the natives think of themselves as Cornish and different. The benign climate, spectacular cliffs and coves, unique wild flowers and birds, and weird megalithic remains of Britain's first inhabitants truly make Cornwall a place apart.

The county was the last corner of the land that came to be called England, to be subjugated by the invading English, and kept its own Brythonic Celtic language, closely related to Welsh and Breton, alive until the 19th century. Romantic antiquarians occasionally still try to revive it, without conspicuous success; but from Minack to Tintagel, legendary Camelot, the place names still declare with their strange music that Cornwall is a place apart. Mebyon Kernow, the Cornish nationalist movement,

A different response is more constructive. If it was obscene to spend millions producing unwanted food, it may seem even more obscene to spend millions on inert, weed-infested fields. This has nothing to do with environmental conservation. Farm subsidies were at least spent on the farmer's honest toil. Set-aside is reminiscent of the old dock labour scheme: paying people to do nothing at all. Such payments humiliate the recipient as much as they infuriate the taxpayer.

The answer must therefore be to switch from paying farmers for doing nothing to paying them for what the public wants. In most cases, this means acting as custodians for a new, less industrialised countryside where such custodianship is most needed. This is unlikely to be on the 20 per cent of every arable farmer's land eligible for set-aside under the current voluntary scheme or the 15 per cent that will be virtually compulsory under the new reforms. Need is concentrated in areas of outstanding beauty or outstanding sensitivity. And it should be concentrated on maintenance and not just on inertia.

In some cases land should not be eligible for set-aside at all. In others, whole farms might be suitable for set-aside treatment, notably on hills, estuaries and greenbelt land. In such places, there should be no question of permitting farmland to be diverted to covert suburban development such as caravan parks and golf courses. These uses are now the greatest single threat to the countryside, one on which the government is wholly silent, terrified of further alienating the farm lobby.

The key must always be to direct public money to where the public interest requires it to go. The government should call an early review of the set-aside scheme, and not kick it into touch just because farm policy is a matter for Brussels. Leave the fate of the British countryside to the current custodians of the common agricultural policy and it will soon be weeds and caravans all over.

has negligible support, but its message of "English Pigs Go Home" only repeats with robust West Country emphasis what the Cornish have been saying for 15 centuries.

Cornwall is far away. Two centuries ago the road to Cornwall was described as "the dreariest strip of earth traversed by any English high road". Recently the 30-mile traffic jams on the A30 across Bodmin Moor throughout the summer have made access to Cornwall even drearier and more arduous. But the tourist industry, which has been Cornwall's money-spinner since the war, is suffering the worst slump in living memory.

The crops of early daffodils and potatoes now face stiff competition from the Netherlands and other horticultural countries with as good climates or bigger greenhouses. Cornish cream teas are no longer dietetically correct and have even fallen below the EC cream quota. Fishermen are outraged that their time at sea is to be limited, for the sake of fish conservation. The Cornish are up in arms.

In other words, everything is much as usual across the Tamar. The Cornish will probably stop short of unilateral boycott of the exchange-rate mechanism, or replacing the pound with their own currency, perhaps regulated by the Stannary Courts and called the "tin". They have the consolations of living in an incomparable landscape. And they are the best living example of subsidiarity in action. When the Cornish can be part of the United Kingdom and yet remain so independent of spirit, there is no chance of their being transformed into insipid and soggy Brussels sprouts.

Filling Maxwell pensions gap

From Sir John Cuckney, Chairman of the Maxwell Pensioners Trust

Sir, The Maxwell pensions schemes originally had assets of nearly £700 million. About £250 million remains secure. The rest was transferred to Maxwell companies or is held by banks as security for loans made to those companies.

The liquidators and administrators are seeking the return of funds rightly due to the pension schemes. In some cases this should be possible quickly. The National Westminster decision to return its £25 million Teva shareholding to the liquidators acting for the pension funds is an example I hope others will follow. But in some cases ownership is contested.

Part of the task of the special unit in the Department of Social Security set up by Peter Lilley, to which I am an adviser, is to work alongside the liquidators and others to help resolve such difficulties, so that funds can flow back to the pension schemes as quickly as possible.

But it is extremely unlikely that all the funds lost will be recovered. The trust fund, of which I am chairman, aims to fill that gap. This will be a stiff challenge but one that I believe can be met if there is wide response from all with a concern for the difficulties faced by Maxwell pensioners or for the structure and good names of the financial services and pension industries which have been threatened by the Maxwell affair.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN CUCKNEY, Chairman,
The Maxwell Pensioners Trust,
PO Box 14,
7 St James's Square, SW1,
July 16.

Weekend Money letters, page 30

Young arthritis

From the Chief Executive of Arthritis Care

Sir, May I add a plea for another section of Britain's young people to your valuable report, "Poverty trap closes in on the young" (July 9). Young people with arthritis find it even more difficult to obtain employment and training in the present situation.

They want careers and independence just as much as other youngsters and they find difficulties which stem from the prejudice and indifference of employers, as well as the greater costs which all people with disabilities have in their daily lives.

There are estimated to be in the United Kingdom at least one million people under 45 with arthritis, including 12,000 children. The fact that all too often they are greeted with the retort, "You're too young to have arthritis", simply adds insult to injury.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD GUTCH,
Chief Executive, Arthritis Care,
18 Stephenson Way, NW1.

Student unions

From Mr C. G. P. Lakeman

Sir, As a recent undergraduate at the University of Kent at Canterbury, I joined forces with students of all political persuasions in a campaign to make membership of the union voluntary. There is no reason why a voluntary union could not continue to perform those useful functions currently undertaken, such as representation on official bodies.

Dr Coleman (letter, July 7) talks of students' irritation "by the occasional excesses", which is an inappropriate way to describe the use of taxpayers' money for overt political ends. Many students are affronted by the "automatic" membership rule and feel — rightly — that they can make up their own minds.

No one should be obliged to belong to a body which thereafter claims to speak for 1.4 million students and, by extension, passes off its views as those of its conscripted membership.

Yours faithfully,
C. G. P. LAKEMAN,
5-7 La Motte Street,
St Helier, Jersey, CI.

Green towels

From Mr Nigel S. Willson

Sir, Mr Collins (letter, July 4) asks as an hotelier whether it is churlish to wonder how many guests who expect clean towels every day in an hotel launder their own every day at home.

It is churlish. Hotel guests are usually obliged to pay the same rate whether they stay one night or more. Accordingly, they are entitled to expect the luxury of freshly laundered towels on a daily basis.

Yours faithfully,
N. S. WILLSON,
Pond House, The Street,
Wilmington, East Sussex.

Huck's home state

From Professor David Lowenthal

Sir, Ben Macintyre ("Twain's hero crosses racial divide", July 8) misidentifies Mark Twain's home town as Hannibal, Montana. The Hannibal in question is proudly in Missouri, on the banks of the Mississippi.

The town cherishes such Twain relics as the tomb of "Becky Thatcher" (the fictional identity posthumously assumed by Twain's old flame, Laura Hawkins) and, next to Twain's boyhood home, the picket

Japan's place in the trading world

From Dr John Brandon

Sir, Stephen Bayley's article, "Stiffen the sinews — this is war" (Life & Times, July 9), reveals much about Western paranoia — particularly American — and virtually nothing about Japanese industry and commerce. Never mind: bogymen have always been necessary for those who abnegate their responsibility for the mess they have created.

Mr Bayley says: "Japanese companies possess knowledge about manufacturing that is beyond the reach of Western competitors." Balderdash: the key Japanese industries thrive because they do the simple things well — good old-fashioned production engineering.

As remarked by the influential Japanese commentator, M. Imai, it is Western management which "worships at the altar of innovation". Wherever the Japanese have attempted a fundamental innovative programme they have failed lamentably.

We don't even have production engineers in the UK any more; we have systems engineers, many of whom are not engineers and know very little about systems.

Furthermore, I see no practical or moral difference between the predominance of public schools and Oxbridge in the higher reaches of British public life and the existence of organisations such as the Waseda University Debating Club in influential positions in Japanese business and government.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN BRANDON,
University of Wales College of Cardiff, School of Engineering,
Newport Road, Cardiff.

From Mr Timo Hannay

Sir, Stephen Bayley misunderstands Japanese attitudes to business and the reasons why these have proved so successful. (I write as a graduate student who has worked in Japan in teaching and administration.)

Japan is not a culture of "inflexible beliefs", but rather one in which foreign ideas of all kinds are absorbed avidly and implemented with more efficiency and attention to detail than the originators can muster. Japanese society is also full of good ideas that the West would do

well to imitate, but it chooses not to do so.

The Japanese are not less responsible than Westerners. Indeed, it is their individual sense of duty and responsibility to their families, companies and society that is at the heart of their industrial success. It is also one reason for Japan's extremely low crime rate.

It is Mr Bayley and not the Japanese "salaryman" who believes that "business is war". Business is a competition. We in the West should be sure that our competitors are behaving fairly but then direct our energies towards improving our own competitiveness rather than criticising the attitudes of those who are more successful than us.

Yours faithfully,
TIMO HANNAY,
St John's College, Oxford,
July 12.

From Mr Michael Jenkins

Sir, I sympathise with some of the comments in Stephen Bayley's article. Yes, the Japanese are a force to be reckoned with. Yes, Western companies do not take them seriously enough and yes, Japanese companies produce goods with fine attention to detail and quality.

However, there is no reason why Western companies should not compete. One problem to overcome is that of the young English engineer in a Japanese company who felt isolated because of the "sea of spidery graphics" which appeared on company faces. Maybe he should consider learning some Japanese.

Bath College of Higher Education runs a one-year programme for the Department of Trade and Industry which is intended to train engineers to learn to speak, read and write Japanese. In the two years we have run it not one British manufacturing company has sent employees on the course or sponsored it. Our main sponsors to date have been Toyota Motor Corporation, All Nippon Airways and the Daiwa Anglo-Japanese Foundation.

Yours sincerely,
MICHAEL JENKINS
(Director), Bath Business Japanese Programme,
Bath College of Higher Education,
Sion Hill, Bath, Avon.

Religion on TV

From the Bishop of Rochester

Sir, I understand that BBC Television is under pressure to move its *Songs of Praise* programme to a later time on Sunday evenings, in order to make way for what it considers to be more popular and profitable programmes at a peak viewing time.

I hope that the BBC has not overlooked the interesting statistic that the new, much-publicised *Eldorado* has achieved an initial viewing public of 6.1 million: the costs for a year's production (156 programmes) are said to be £10 million (Ms Julia Smith's letter, June 23). *Songs of Praise* regularly achieves between six and eight million viewers, at a comparatively minimal cost.

It remains to be seen whether *Eldorado* can increase its following; but planners in all networks should note the consistent support which the public gives to religious programmes. As well as having a proper desire to be entertained there are large numbers of people who wish to explore spiritual questions and values. To ignore them or marginalise well-established religious programmes would be professionally irresponsible.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL ROFFEN,
Bishopscourt, Rochester, Kent.

From the Roman Catholic Bishop of Portsmouth and the Anglican Bishop of St Albans

Sir, We write to express our concern over your report (July 3, later editions) of planned changes to ITV schedules on Sunday evenings from

January 1993. It appears that for three-quarters of the year *Highway*, the popular religious programme, will be replaced by a feature film. Replacements for *Highway* during the rest of the year will be scheduled late on Sunday evening. Because the remainder of the religious output is on Sunday morning, this effectively marginalises religious broadcasting.

There is no suggestion that *Highway* is unpopular with viewers or advertisers. Indeed, the programme regularly attracts up to eight million viewers a week and we understand that there has never been any problem selling advertising around it. It would seem that loyal viewers of *Highway*, or its replacement, are being deprived of their programmes simply because ITV is engaged in competitive scheduling with the BBC and satellite television.

Mr Greg Dyke, the chairman of the ITV Association, has recently assured the Royal Television Society that ITV would continue to give "proper coverage" to current affairs and the arts, regional programmes and documentaries. Does this not include religious programmes, as required under the Broadcasting Act? It is hard to understand how moving religious programmes to a time when fewer people are likely to be watching can be seen as giving proper coverage to religious matters.

Yours faithfully,
CRISPIN HOLLIS
(Chairman, Roman Catholic Bishops' Committee for Communications),
JOHN ST ALBANS
(Chairman, Church of England Communications Committee),
Bishop's House, Edinburgh Road,
Portsmouth, Hampshire.

County history

From Professor Joyce Youings

Sir, Philip Howard's article (Life & Times, July 11) on *The Victoria County History of England* brought back delightful memories of a spring semester exactly ten years ago spent teaching at Kansas University. I was to teach Elizabethan history and the undergraduates who volunteered themselves were majoring in a variety of disciplines.

Such instruction as was available was supplied by lectures, but we soon dropped these when I discovered in these young people an avidity for burrowing away in the parish histories of the VCH, of which the university fortunately possessed an almost complete set. From time to time I would fall over a familiar figure curled up on the library basement floor with almost certainly

the largest book he or she had ever opened.

Our formal meetings buzzed with the excitement of discovery. When we began none of them had more than the vaguest idea of where England lies, let alone the location of her ancient counties, but before the class dispersed these were familiar territory and, perhaps more to the point, there had emerged some very well informed comparisons between Elizabethan villages and country towns in, say, Essex and Somerset.

I like to think that their present-day inhabitants will find themselves one day under close scrutiny by some extraordinarily knowledgeable American visitors.

Yours sincerely,
JOYCE YOUINGS,
University of Exeter,
Department of History,
The Queen's Drive, Exeter.

fence which Tom Sawyer famously got his pals to white-wash for him. Twain himself, who was born in Florida, Missouri, but grew up in Hannibal, explains in a preface to *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* that the book uses "Missouri negro dialect", "backwoods Southwestern dialect" and several variants of "ordinary 'Pike County' dialect" — lest readers should otherwise "sup-

pose that all these characters were trying to sound alike and not succeeding". Those tempted to probe deeper are warned that "persons attempting to find a motive in this narrative will be prosecuted; persons attempting to find a moral in it will be banished; persons attempting to find a plot in it will be shot".

Yours sincerely,
DAVID LOWENTHAL,
56 Crown Street,
Harrow on the Hill, Middlesex,
July 8.

Historic houses in perspective

From the Marquess of Anglesey

Sir, In advocating free-market, laissez-faire attitudes towards the future of large Grade I country houses Mr Mansfield (letter, July 8) in effect proposes a return to the situation before 1914.

An immense number of such houses existed at that time, together with at least an equal number of affluent owners and potential owners and an almost limitless supply of cheap servants (without whom life in big houses is extremely difficult).

Although owners had at times to sell up, because of agricultural depressions, business failures, gambling losses and other similar causes, the stock of "this country's notable houses" was always balanced by the numbers of people able and willing to live in them as "family homes".

Between the two world wars, with punitive taxation, depressions and slumps, with servants rightly demanding higher wages, the quantity of potential buyers decreased sharply. After the second world war, the situation was infinitely worse: few could afford to live in large mansions and increasingly few people were prepared to become domestics.

The result was that many hundreds of historic country houses of enormous architectural importance were demolished or, in the case of a few, became institutionalised — much worse fates than Mr Mansfield's "sterile museums".

Taxation is not, nor is likely again to be, so low as to produce an abundant class wealthy enough to live as its grandfathers did. Depressions, even slumps, high-taxation governments, vast insurance losses, even wars, cannot be taken to be things of the past. Each time any of these occurs the number of people opulent and brave enough to live privately in large houses is further reduced.

Today's stock of outstanding houses is tragically small compared with 1945. The best have been "saved" from demolition or institutional uses (which usually have much the same effect) only by the National Trust or taxpayer-assisted private trust arrangements.

Alas, no legislation can prevent these outstanding architectural, historical and educational parts of the built heritage being demolished. If no person or body can be found to take them on they decay to the point where dangerous-structure notices ensure their annihilation. They cannot, of course, ever be replaced.

Houses such as Heveningham, Herstmonceux, Pitchford and Brympton d'Evercy are now on the market, and doubtless others will follow; one must be an optimist indeed to expect them to be saved as "family homes". There is, as always in such matters, a choice of evils. Not necessarily sterile museums are infinitely preferable to the alternatives: ask the hundreds of thousands of people from all over the world who visit them.

Yours faithfully,
ANGLESEY,
Ple Newydd, Llanfairpwll,
Isle of Anglesey.

Not on the ball

From Mr D. S. Baird-Murray

Sir, The photograph used to illustrate your feature on golf courses ("Weekend Times", July 11), was not of an "English landscape" but of Llandrindod Wells from the first tee of our golf course, which was designed and laid out in 1907 by Harry Vardon. It was taken by the Heart of Wales Tourist Association in the 1980s and the two people shown are myself and my general manager, Roberto Marchesi.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID BAIRD-MURRAY
(Chairman), Hotel Metropole
(Llandrindod) Ltd.,
The Metropole,
Llandrindod Wells, Powys,
July 13.

Master's election

From the Master of the Order of Preachers

Sir, I would like to correct one detail of your report (July 8) of my election as Master of the Order of Preachers. I did not claim that "mental obedience" was to be valued, but "mutual obedience".

"Mental obedience" suggests that one thinks what one is told. "Mutual obedience" implies that a community seeks consensus by a mutual attentiveness which demands the use of one's intelligence and not its suppression.

Yours faithfully,
TIMOTHY RADCLIFFE,
Capitular General Elector
Mexico, 1992,
Orden de Predicadores,
Lago de Guadalupe, Mexico,
July 9.

Square meals for synod

From Mrs J. G. Hyde

Sir, I was interested by the presumably unintended juxtaposition of two reports on your front page of July 13: "High-life synod shelves plan for high-fibre diet", and "UN delivers food to starving suburbs".

Yours faithfully,
J. G. HYDE,
Fiddlers, Easton,
Huntingdon,
Cambridgeshire,
July 14.

THE TIMES SATURDAY JULY 18 1992

OBITUARIES

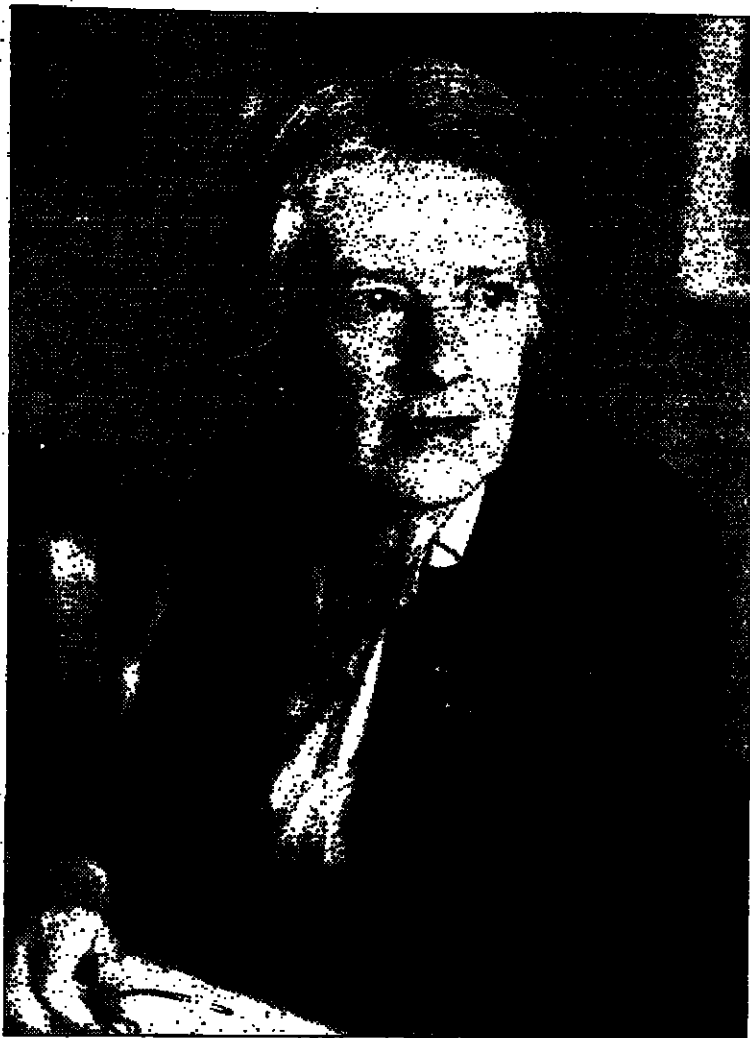
DR CICELY WILLIAMS

Dr Cicely Williams, CMG, FRCP, died in hospital near her home in Oxford on July 13 aged 98. She was born in Jamaica on December 2, 1993.

CICELY Williams was primarily responsible for the identification, in the 1920s, of kwashiorkor, the nutritional deficiency disease which has ravaged children in drought and war-torn areas of malnourished Third World countries. As a paediatrician and nutritionist, she was a pioneer of women's progress in the medical profession and her advanced ideas and methods of treatment in the field of paediatrics are now recognised and followed internationally. Her eventual life included holding senior positions in the Colonial Service, surviving the brutality of Japanese prisoners-of-war camps and serving as the first adviser in maternal and child health to the World Health Organisation from 1948 to 1951. Central to her work was a belief in the value of direct contact between mothers and their children, between health professionals and the communities they serve, and the need for developed countries to help under-developed ones to use their indigenous foods properly rather than to rely on foreign imports.

Williams first wrote about what was to become known as kwashiorkor in the 1931-32 volume of the annual medical report of the Gold Coast (now Ghana) where she was working. The condition results from gross dietary protein deficiency with a high intake of carbohydrate of low nutritional value. It causes the abdomen to swell, hair to turn red, the liver to enlarge and life-long ill-effects in children under two. Williams's paper, in which she suggested that "some amino acid or protein deficiency could not be excluded as a cause" was based on her clinical observations at hospital in Accra. It was rejected at first, however, by medical editors in London. "They couldn't concede that a woman in the Gold Coast of all places had anything to say which concerned them," she said years later. But Theodore Fox, who was to become head of the Family Planning Association, wrote and suggested she should write on the disease for *The Lancet*. And it was in this paper that the condition was named for the first time in medical terms.

Born the fourth of six children in a distinguished Jamaican land-owning family (in her words the "brutal and licentious plantocracy") which had been established there since the seventeenth century, Cicely Williams was sent to England to be



educated at Bath High School for Girls. She returned from Jamaica during the first world war to read history at Somerville College but changed to medicine. She was one of the first 50 female undergraduates to have their degrees conferred in the Sheldonian Theatre in 1920. After training at the Queen's College Hospital for Children, Hackney, and at King's College, Camberwell, Williams at first despaired of getting a medical post because returning servicemen had priority for jobs. She therefore spent a year as medical officer in malaria-infested Greece. Here she became inspired by the pioneering approach to community medicine in Croatia of Andrija Stampar and for the rest of her life she always hung a photograph of this hero on her wall.

Then, armed with the diploma of hygiene and tropical medicine she had gained in London, she joined the Colonial Health Service and, after two years of fruitless application for postings, she was appointed

to the Gold Coast. In this White Man's Grave of West Africa (called by Williams a "White Woman's Paradise" because of the preponderance of males) she was appalled and at first puzzled to find severe malnutrition among abundance. Nutrition and mother and child health care became her primary concerns leading to her definition of kwashiorkor.

It was characteristic that she should use a word from the local language, Ga, which means, literally, "neglect of the deposited", for her greatest discovery. Other physicians, particularly in those colonial days, might have sought recognition by giving the disease their own name. Williams was a visionary with a rare respect for her patients who was not above conferring with witch doctors in her search for local knowledge.

Her basically commonsense approach to medicine applied even to population control. She always maintained that "so long as they

know their babies will survive and flourish, they will restrict the number they have".

After seven years in Africa, to her sorrow, her unorthodox methods earned her a transfer to Malaya which had problems associated with a totally different diet. Here, in 1939, she delivered a blistering speech in Singapore, entitled "Milk and Murder", which was a battle cry for breast feeding, and accused proprietary brand baby food manufacturers of causing infant deaths.

Cicely Williams was conducting a health survey in the remote province of Trengganu when Pearl Harbour was attacked and it took her weeks of danger and privation to reach Singapore where she arrived just as the Japanese invaded. After working non-stop in hospitals under ceaseless bombardment, and still clutching the results of her survey, she was imprisoned at the notorious civilian Changi jail, where she became chief doctor and was later appointed commandant of the women's camp. One of her proudest boasts was: "Twenty babies were born, 20 breast fed and 20 survived — you can't do better than that."

In October 1943, after two years of near starvation and appalling deprivation, she was arrested as a possible spy and taken to the YMCA building, which the Japanese had turned into the headquarters of the Kempe Tai, the equivalent of the Gestapo. After interrogation under threat of torture, she was put into a series of cages which, for the next four months, she shared with dead and dying men; forbidden to speak, forced to crouch in a sitting position, starved and totally deprived, mentally and physically. After three months she was joined by her only female companion, an American journalist, Freddie Bloom, whom she saved because of her medical knowledge; both suffered the after-effects of ber-ber for the rest of their lives.

Williams was returned to Changi a wreck and yet this indomitable woman, already over 50, wrote in her statement after the war to police investigating Japanese treatment of internees: "I recall with pride and gratitude, the unflinching kindness and consideration which I received from all nationalities — even occasionally from some of the Japanese."

Long after the war she would show visitors a faded cotton bundle of her prison camp possessions: a blue tin mug with her initials on it; a cotton jumper, a man's metal trouser button with which she cut her toenails and a polished wooden splinter with which she used to clean her teeth. After repatriation, bent

and malnourished, her famous red hair turned white. A prematurely aged Cicely Williams was still, technically, the employee of the Colonial Service. As such she was sent to America for recuperation, ostensibly to do post-graduate study at Johns Hopkins University.

In 1948 she was appointed the first head of Mother and Child Care at the newly-formed World Health Organisation in Geneva and held the post for three years until, for family reasons, she had to return to Jamaica. Incapable of not working and having always hoped to work for her own country she travelled throughout her island and in 1953 made the definitive report on vomiting sickness, which claimed many Jamaican lives.

It was only the beginning of a remarkable 40 years in which as a doctor and medical administrator she visited, lived, taught and lectured in more than 70 countries. From 1959 to 1964 she was visiting professor of maternal and child health at the American University of Beirut and from 1964 to 1967 she was overseas training adviser to the Family Planning Association. Always and everywhere she spread her basic, simple message that "personal and individual medicine must be both preventive and curative and continuity of care is essential".

Cicely Williams was the first woman to be given an honorary fellowship of the Royal Society of Medicine, in 1977; two years later she was made an honorary fellow of Somerville College. At a symposium held there to honour her 90th birthday, speakers from all over the world paid tribute to this invincible geriatric and soon afterwards she was rewarded with possibly her most treasured tribute — an honorary degree from the University of Ghana. But there was no stopping her. She travelled as principal guest to an international convocation held in Tel Aviv and followed this by visiting Nepal, where she was chief speaker at the inaugural meeting of the Nepalese Paediatric Society, and the next year addressed a meeting of the Pakistan Paediatric Society.

Then in 1985, aged 92, and still promulgating her famous dictum that "cuddling is more important than calories", Williams became a fellow of Green College, Oxford University's newest postgraduate college.

Her entry in *Who's Who* read: "Retired — except on demand", a statement so typical that it was used as the title of her biography, written by Sally Craddock and published in 1983.

FRANCIS HUMBLET

Francis Humblet, secretary general of the Belgian senate for more than 20 years and of several European parliamentary assemblies, has died aged 81. He was born on December 20, 1910.

NOT many officers of national parliaments can claim to have left their mark on a whole range of international parliamentary assemblies, as did Francis Humblet, secretary general (clerk) of the Belgian senate from 1957 to 1979. Armed with university degrees in law, political science and the history of art and archaeology, he joined the professional staff of the Belgian senate in 1935. Ten years later, having learned his job in the practical world of parliamentary procedure and law, he became the senate's assistant secretary general.

From 1948 to 1956 he was assistant secretary general of the consultative assembly of the Council of Europe. From 1952 to 1956 he held the same post in the common assembly of the Coal and Steel Community (forerunner of the European Parliament). In 1956 he was elected secretary general of the assembly of the Western European Union, an office which he held until 1980 and was the most demanding of those posts.

At first sight this catalogue of distinguished international duties held in harness with top posts in the Belgian sen-

ate, suggests a medieval talent for pluralism. In fact all these assemblies, being composed of members of parliament, generally met during parliamentary recesses, and so could take full advantage of professional skills from several national parliaments. Later on these assemblies developed professional staffs of their own, though their calls on national parliaments for the professional advice of secretaries general have never ceased.

Humblet took part in drafting the rules of procedure of the consultative assembly of the Council of Europe, the common assembly and the WEU assembly and in formulating its practices within the framework of those rules. His extensive "hands-on" experience and the diplomacy and, indeed, artistry with which he worked the corridors of power were greatly appreciated by the leaders of those assemblies — such as Paul-Henri Spaak and Guy Mollet in the consultative assembly, Alcide de Gasperi and Giuseppe Peella in the Common Assembly and John Macley, Carlo Schmidt and Fred Mulley in the WEU assembly. He was elected president of the Association of Secretaries General of Parliaments in 1970.

Despite his remarkable range Humblet was no office-bound sweat. He was a popular and accessible chief with a wit and conviviality that easily crossed national frontiers. His widow survives him with one daughter.

APPRECIATION

His Honour Norman Brodrick



AS A representative of the Coroners Society, I appeared before Norman Brodrick (obituary, July 7), a kind and jovial man I had known for some years, and his committee on "Coroners".

After he and the committee had taken their places, he rose, came round to me in front, shook me warmly by the hand, and welcomed me to the enquiry. On returning to his chair, with a twinkle in his eye, he opened the proceedings by saying: "I will now ask you a question which will bowl you out for a duck. What in your opinion is the use of Coroners?" His play succeeded. To the amusement of all, and as he intended, I was at a loss to know how and where to begin to reply to this basic but all embracing question. Needless to say he helped me out. The enquiry then proceeded along normal lines in a relaxed atmosphere, the chairman having put all

concerned, including me, at their ease.

He was latterly chairman of the Lord Chancellor's advisory committee on the appointment of magistrates in Portsmouth. His light-hearted charm made a difficult job seem easy. All were extremely fond of him.

In my view the likeness of him which accompanied your obituary was typical, with that quizzical look of incredulity, much as to say "Now pull the other one!"

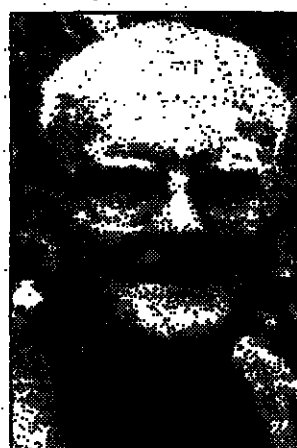
P. D. Childs

PROFESSOR MARSDEN JONES

Dr J. M. B. (Marsden) Jones, emeritus professor at the American University in Cairo, has died unexpectedly while on holiday in Cyprus aged 71. He was born in Three Crosses, near Swansea, on December 20, 1920.

A DISTINGUISHED Arabist, Marsden Jones endeavoured all his life to promote a greater understanding of Islam and Arab Islamic culture. His special interest lay in the *Maghazi* literature (works dealing with the military episodes in the life of the Prophet), a topic on which he contributed a number of articles in the *Bulletin of the School of Oriental and African Studies*, London University, and much later he contributed the section on *Maghazi* works to the first volume of the *Cambridge History of Arabic Literature* which is an excellent summary of the subject. But his *magnum opus*, on which he spent many years, was a critical edition of one of the most important of the still extant works on the subject, that of al-Waqidi. This will ensure him a permanent place in the history of Arabic scholarship.

Educated at the University College of Wales, Aberystwyth, prior to war service with the RAF, Marsden Jones trained at the School of Oriental and African Studies.



receiving a BA (Hons) in Arabic in 1949 and his PhD in Arabic Literature in 1953. He spent six years at the school as a lecturer until his appointment in 1960 as the director of the School of Oriental Studies at the American University in Cairo. This was the beginning of a long and productive career in Egypt. He worked to restructure the school and to create, in its place, a new and vigorous Centre for Arabic Studies with expanded and modernised programmes in Arabic language and literature, Arab and Islamic history, Islamic thought and institutions, and Islamic art and architecture. He was indefatigable in his efforts to develop teaching and research in these fields and to secure funding for new ex-

pansion and new projects. Jones's special interests were early Islam, the life of Muhammad, the emergence of Islamic institutions and the study of modern Islamic movements in Egypt. His edition of al-Waqidi's *Kitab al-Maghazi* and his work on the early *sira* literature are well-known, and more recently he contemplated a biography of Muhammad which would have focussed on institutional developments during the Prophet's lifetime.

He was also investigating the development of modern Islamic fundamentalist groups from their predecessors in medieval times. Jones's teaching and administrative duties never allowed him as much time as he would have wished for research, and his death intervened before he could publish the results of his latest research, resumed since he retired in 1990. Amongst the projects in which he collaborated with his colleague, Dr Hamdi Sakout, was a biographical study of Egyptian authors, which has resulted in the publication of the title *Leaders of Contemporary Literature in Egypt* (in Arabic). This series has received much acclaim in the Arab world and elsewhere.

Students who attended Jones's lectures will not forget his unusual skill in introducing them to the complexities

of Islamic culture through the study of Arabic primary sources, of which he had extensive knowledge. Those who wrote these under his supervision valued his erudition, his patient guidance and perseverance in helping them to master the techniques of scholarly methodology and, above all, the use and analysis of source materials.

Jones's distinctive approach in teaching and research was rooted in the strong conviction that familiarity with the primary sources was indispensable for a proper grasp of the foundations and development of Islam, its thought and institutions. He deprecated those contemporary trends in the study of Islam which give insufficient attention to available primary sources and which thereby contribute to the diffusion of inaccurate views of Islam and Islamic culture.

Jones's scholarly rigour was not always appreciated by those who fell short of his high standards, or who regarded his method as an antiquated Orientalist one. None who knew him, however, would deny that his devotion towards the community he served was remarkable. He was always lively, and discussions with him were unfailingly entertaining as well as instructive.

He is survived by his wife, Beryl, and a son.

Serrano, whose real name was Jose Ricardo Ruiz, led Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) rebel forces in the northern department of Chalatenango, an area of intense fighting throughout the civil war, which ended with peace accords signed in January, having claimed more than 75,000 lives.

RABBI MARC TANENBAUM

Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum, who played a leading role in promoting Jewish-Christian relations and in relief efforts for communities in conflict, has died aged 66 in New York.



MARC Tanenbaum first rose to prominence in 1965 when he became the only rabbi to participate in the historic Second Vatican Council, when the Catholic Church formally denounced anti-semitism and banned the depiction of the Jews as the killers of Christ.

Almost his entire adult life was devoted to furthering Jewish-Christian relations to advancing human rights and to elevating the plight of refugees and famine-ravaged communities around the globe. Tanenbaum was still a child when his family moved from Baltimore to New York where he grew up and attended an Orthodox yeshiva. He was ordained in 1950 at the Jewish Theological Seminary as a rabbi in the Conservative stream of Judaism.

Rabbi Tanenbaum became director of national inter-religious affairs of the American Jewish Committee and later the head of its international relations division, a position he held until his retirement in 1989. His work led to frequent contacts with religious leaders of many faiths, particularly Pope John Paul II, but his close ties with Protestant and Roman Catholic clerics drew sharp criticism from some Orthodox Jews who refused to call him rabbi.

He disdained his critics and continued his inter-faith work undeterred, achieving international recognition and

praise as "the foremost Jewish ecumenical leader in the world". His many non-Jewish friends included the evangelist Billy Graham and Cardinal John O'Connor, of New York. The then US president Jimmy Carter included him among the ten national religious and academic figures invited to discuss "the state of the nation" at Camp David summit meetings in 1979, and he addressed US senate and house foreign relation committees on "moral imperatives in the formation of American foreign policy".

He also testified before congressional committees on world refugee and world hunger problems and organised many relief efforts for victims of war and conflict in such diverse areas as Lebanon, Uganda, Indo-China, Haiti, Afghanistan and Central America.

Failing health did not slow his efforts but he underwent major heart surgery and died of heart failure at Lenox Hill Hospital in New York.

He is survived by his wife and three children.

Air Commodore William Ewing

AIR-Commodore Bill Ewing, OBE, has died aged 86. During the second world war he was closely involved in the development of four-engine aircraft, particularly the Lancaster and Stirling bombers.

In 1940 he was promoted to wing commander and moved to the Department of Research and Development. He was appointed OBE for his services there.

At the end of the European conflict he was transferred as air commodore in charge of Cawnpore Maintenance Base in India, later moving on to the staff of AOC in Delhi.

German Serrano

GERMAN Serrano, one of the leading Salvadorean guerrilla commanders during 12 years of civil war in the country, has died in hospital in San Salvador after suffering a brain haemorrhage. He was 32.

Weekend birthdays

TODAY: Mr Kenneth Armitage, sculptor, 76; Lady Bingley, social worker, 67; Mr Edward Bond, playwright and director, 58; Mr Richard Branson, chairman, 58; Mr Virginia Group, 42; Mr Anthony G.H. Duggan, former headmaster, King's School, Brunton, 67; Sir William Doughty, chairman, North West Thames Regional Health Authority, 67; Viscount Escher, 79; Mr Nick Faldo, golfer,

35; Mr John Fraser, chairman, Giba-Geigy, 61; Senator John Glenn, former astronaut, 71; Professor H.L.A. Hart, QC, former principal, Brasenose College, Oxford, 85; Mr David Hemmery, athlete, 48; Miss Elizabeth Lillie, cricketer, 43; Mr Nelson Mandela, president, African National Congress, 74; Mr Anthony Miles, publisher, 62; Mr Richard

Pasco, actor, 66; Lord Reddesdale, 25; Sir Robert Speed, QC, former Counsel to the Speaker, 87; Dr G.M. Stephen, headmaster, The Perse School, Cambridge, 43; Sir Jamie Stenhouse Darling, former director, National Trust for Scotland, 74; Lord Strauss, 91; Mr P. Ensor Walters, former vice-chairman, National Liberal Club, 80; Mr Jim Watt, boxer, 44; Dr B.C.L. Weedon, former vice-chancellor, Nottingham University,

69; Mr Yevgeny Yevushenko, poet, 59. TOMORROW: Mr Justice Auld, 55; Sir Norman Brain, diplomat, 85; Mr John Bratby, painter, 64; Mr W. Glanville Brown, barrister and linguist, 85; Mr Simon Cadell, actor, 42; Mr Cameron Cochrane, former headmaster, Fettes College, 59; Viscount Colville of Culross, QC, 59; Mr Nicholas Danby, organist, 57; Professor R. Duckworth, dean,

Royal London Hospital Medical College, 63; Baroness Elles, 71; Miss Evelyn Glennie, percussionist, 27; Sir Anthony Graham, former chairman, Joint Consultative Committee, 62; Major-General D.E. Isles, 68; Dr Carme J.D.A., astronomer, 51; Mr Richard Knight, former headmaster, Oundle and Monkton Combe schools, 77; Professor Mary McGeevyn, nephrologist, 69; Mr Brian May, rock guitarist,

July 18 ON THIS DAY 1917

The author of this article was Charles William Brodrick, an assistant editor on the paper. Writing today he would be compelled to admit that Jane Austen is more honoured and much more read than Sir Walter Scott.

JANE AUSTEN

It has been decided that the centenary of Jane Austen's death, which falls today, shall be formally marked by the placing of a tablet on the Hampshire cottage from which her novels were sent out into the world. The surprising thing is that the tablet has not been put there before; for Jane Austen, having like many good writers suffered a period of eclipse, is now read, known, and quoted by a devoted circle of readers who swear by her. There is no half-likeness here: it is a matter of complete enthusiasm or none at all.

But she never has been and never will be everybody's novelist. Her stories are too much alike in style and subject to appeal to the vast general public which Dickens can still command. For wider outlook, for deeper lights and shades, for stronger contrasts, for higher passions, for nobler virtues and ignobler vices, for thrills, hair-breadth escapes and overwhelming reversals of fortune, for a thousand legitimate devices and ingredients of fiction, we must look elsewhere. She can supply none of them. At first sight she lacks so much that on approaching her after Fielding, or Scott, or Dickens, or Meredith, or many another male and female writer of fiction, obviously so much more varied as first hand with the ways of the world and with the manifold gradations of human goodness and badness, one wonders what secret charm an observer so restricted can possess to retain her spell over the fourth and fifth generations of readers after her own day. There may well have

been a piquant novelty about her books when they came out, for English fiction was not so rich then as it is now.

"That young lady," wrote Sir Walter Scott, "has a talent for describing the involvements of feelings and characters of ordinary life which is to me the most wonderful I ever met with." He, with far greater resources to draw upon, was also revolutionising fiction; and today, within her own sphere, the lady who kept to her quiet English villages and her own times, while he roamed in imagination over all places and periods, is as honoured and as much read as he is.

To some extent Trollope trodden on her preserves; but the larger world of London and certain types of grandeur and shadiness, to which she was a stranger, were never far off from his closes and gardens; with the consequence that his provincial characters often appear more decidedly provincial than hers. For Miss Austen's characters, provincial as they must have been in situation, never strike us as being such except upon reflection; they carry themselves, and, above all, they write, for all the pettiness that must have clung about them, essentially as members of the polite world.

In the country though they are, they are by no means to be identified with it. The stage on which they move is in fact other than that of external circumstance; it is that of themselves and of their creator. Jane Austen knew her own limitations, and without in the least regretting what she had to forgo she kept her narrow virtues and rather precise, lady-like energies strictly within the bounds in which they could most naturally operate. She stands the test, within a distinctly limited range of absolute sincerity. It is pleasant to think that undeviating faithfulness, albeit in comparative little, continues to receive, even after one hundred years and in a most distracted period of public taste, the general recognition which it deserves.

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● WEEKEND MONEY 25-30

BUSINESS TIMES

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BUSINESS EDITOR JOHN BELL

SPORT
33-38

Profile

John Willan's seven years as managing director of the London Philharmonic Orchestra have been largely spent fighting a battle for supremacy. He admits he is seen as aggressive, abrasive and go-getting but his efforts have paid off in gaining the London Philharmonic official residency status at the Royal Festival Hall. Page 23



Money moves

The cost of transferring funds from an account in a British bank to another account in Europe has been cut to £5 by the Co-operative Bank, which also guarantees arrival times. Page 29

Door stopper

Guidelines have been issued by life assurance company regulators this week to stop personal pension salesmen from persuading employers to leave good company pension schemes. Page 26



Letters... Page 30

Credit marks

Many credit reference agency records hold inaccurate information that blackens the records of those with impeccable credentials applying for credit. Eric Howe, the data protection registrar, said in his annual report this week. Credit reference agencies will also be able to continue giving lenders information about other unconnected people living at the same address until next July, which could prevent those people who are creditworthy from obtaining credit. Page 26

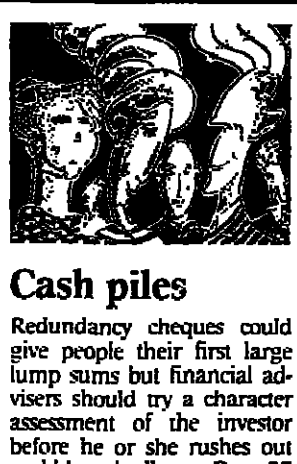


Sid sniffy

Private investors have become discerning and turned up their noses at many of the recent share issues, leaving the bulk of shares with city underwriters or forcing their postponement. Page 28

Identifraud

Fraudsters may think that they are covering their tracks and escaping evasion, but expensive tastes for fast cars, yachts, a string of homes or a predilection for gambling could give them away. Page 25



Letters... Page 27

Savings bond challenges funds

Building society forced to lift mortgage rate

By LINDSAY COOK, MONEY EDITOR

BUILDING societies will report poor savings figures for June next week, putting more pressure on leading lenders to increase their mortgage rates in line with yesterday's surprise announcement from the Cheltenham & Gloucester. The sixth-largest society increased its mortgage rate from 10.75 per cent to 10.99 per cent from today.

The inflow of building society funds has been harmed by National Savings for several months and they face even stronger competition in the coming months from the First Option Bond launched last week by National Savings and aimed at basic-rate taxpayers — the traditional building society investors. The National Savings bond is expected to bring in more than £1 billion and in the first eight working days it took £112 million from 7,865 investors, an average of £16,000 per investor. The interest rate is fixed at 7.75 per cent for a year on sums up to £20,000, above this the rate is 8.05 per cent.

Last month, societies suffered withdrawals for the second instalment of BT2 shares. National Savings gross sales in June totalled £709 million. The net contribution to funding was £439 million.

In the first five months of the year, the net inflow to building societies was £657 million compared with £4.1

billion in the same period last year.

While many of the largest mortgage lenders were surprised by the increase in mortgage rate from the C&G, none ruled out following the sixth-largest society.

The Halifax Building Society, the largest mortgage lender, said: "We are not surprised by this move, but the Halifax has no immediate plans to increase its mortgage rate."

The Abbey National said that savings flows had been affected by the rates offered by National Savings but added it saw "no immediate reason for this to affect mortgage rates". Nationwide, the second-largest society, said it had no plans to raise rates "at present".

Mike Blackburn, chief executive of the Leeds Permanent Building Society, said: "We are not yet under sufficient pressure from National Savings to warrant raising mortgage rates, but it is no surprise if someone has been forced into that position."

Donald Kirkham, group chief executive of the Woolwich, said that it would not respond with a mortgage rate rise unless the C&G's move was the start of something bigger.

Most of the 330,000 C&G borrowers have their payments changed annually and have not benefited from the last reduction yet. This means that their payments should not

go up next March, unless there is a further rise in interest rates.

Andrew Longhurst, chief executive of the C&G, explained its move. "The government has pitched high street interest rates at a new level with its latest National Savings account and C&G cannot allow its own investors to be left behind. Our move is a defensive one, designed to retain existing investors' funds which are committed to homebuyers. Regrettably, but inevitably, it must involve an increase in the mortgage rate. As a building society we are required by legislation to raise most of our funds from the retail market, yet the government has now set rates higher for retail than for wholesale money."

In the year ending April 5, National Savings contributed £3.1 billion to government funding when the public sector borrowing requirement was £7.9 billion. The PSBR was set at £28 billion in the Budget for this year. It is expected to be about £32 billion.

The C&G has a market leading postal savings account paying 7.8 per cent net. It has also launched this week an account with the interest rate fixed at 7.8 per cent net until October next year. It has increased its other savings rates by 0.2 per cent.

Treasury blamed, page 1



Losing streak: British Bloodstock Agency saw pre-tax losses narrow from £381,000 to £55,000 in the year to March 31. There is again no dividend. Major Christo Philipson (right), takes over from Michael Wates as chairman at the annual meeting.

Dollar and shares plunge on \$7bn US trade deficit

By MICHAEL CLARK AND COLIN NARBROUGH

THE worst American trade deficit for 18 months sent shares plunging on both sides of the Atlantic and hit the dollar and the pound.

The FT-SE index of 100 shares, ten points adrift at midday, fell rapidly in the last two hours of trading to finish 51.5 points down at 2,431.9, just one point above its worst of the day. Nearly 40 points were knocked off the Dow Jones industrial average in early trading in New York.

More than £9 billion was wiped from the value of Britain's public companies. There were signs of panic selling among private investors but this appeared to be contained by market-makers, with only 487 million shares traded by the close of business.

America's trade gap widened sharply in May to \$7.38 billion, about \$1.5 billion more than market expectations. The continuing fall in exports raised concern about America's economic prospects.

The dollar, which has been retreating in the face of the advancing mark this week, dropped to DM1.46, with foreign exchange dealers expecting further downward pressure. The flight to the mark took the pound a plenary lower to DM2.8473 at the London close, although sterling gained 1½ cents against the weak dollar to \$1.9490.

The 4.5 per cent jump in the American monthly deficit reflected a large drop in commercial aircraft exports, also down in April and March. The drop is likely to goad the powerful lobby against the multibillion dollar leasing deal that United Airlines, the American carrier, has concluded for European Airbus in preference to Boeing. The commerce department in

Washington said May was the third successive month of widening deficits, reflecting a fall in exports, which had been a source of strength since the recession began in 1990.

With domestic demand still disappointingly weak, given the lowest interest rates for nearly 30 years, the Bush administration had been hoping for exports to continue to underpin recovery.

But Wall Street analysts fear that widespread economic slowdown in America's export markets threatens further deterioration in the trade balance this year, even though the sinking dollar has made American goods highly competitive on price.

Imports declined by 1.4 per cent to \$42.87 billion in May, after reaching a 19-month high in April. But the fall-off was even faster for exports, down 2.5 per cent to \$35.49 billion. Volatile exports of commercial aircraft plummeted \$583 million. But farm goods, a more reliable guide to export performance, also saw a 15.4 per cent fall in exports.

In the first five months of this year, the trade deficit was running an annual rate of \$69.89 billion, slightly above the 1991 shortfall. The expected worsening in the months ahead could mean a final outturn well above last year's.

The continuation of tight German monetary policy, which threatens to delay recovery in Europe, could reduce the surplus America is running with the European Community. The politically sensitive bilateral deficit with Japan shrank slightly in May.

Wall Street, page 22
Bundesbank discord, page 22
Weekending, page 23
Stock markets, page 24

US dollar
1.9497 (+0.0140)
German mark
2.8509 (-0.0062)
Exchange index
92.8 (+0.1)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

FT 30 share
1852.1 (-38.7)
FT-SE 100
2431.9 (-51.5)
New York Dow Jones
3323.81 (-37.82)
Tokyo Nikkei Ave
16548.07 (-439.59)

London: Bank Base: 10%
3-month interbank: 10 1/4-10 3/4%
3-month eligible bills: 9 1/4-9 3/4%
US: Prime Rate: 6%
Federal Funds: 3 1/4%
3-month Treasury Bills: 3.16-3.19%
30-year bonds: 103 1/4-103 3/4

London: New York:
E: \$1.9497 E: \$1.9497
E: DM2.8509 E: DM2.8509
E: Sfr2.5482 E: Sfr2.5482
E: FF9.8371 E: FF9.8371
E: Yen124.73 E: Yen124.73
E: Index: 92.8 E: Index: 92.8
E: ECU: 10.714067 E: ECU: 10.714067
E: ECU: 400.428 E: ECU: 400.428
London Forex market close

London: New York:
AM \$352.65 PM \$356.70
Cable \$359.20-358.60
E: \$185.50-184.00
New York:
Comex \$359.35-359.45

Brent (Aug) \$20.35/bbl (\$20.30)

RPI: 139.3 June (1987=100)
* Denotes midday trading price

Lloyd's names suffer High Court setback in compensation fight

By JON ASHWORTH

MEMBERS of Lloyd's suffered a setback in their fight for compensation yesterday when calls for a judicial review of the insurance market were thrown out in the High Court.

Six names connected with the Gooda Walker Action Group were opposing moves by Lloyd's to have leave for a judicial review set aside. Names on four syndicates formerly managed by the Gooda Walker agency face losses of £1.2 billion for the 1988, 1989 and 1990 underwriting years.

The names won the right to press for a judicial review in May after Lloyd's took steps to draw down against their deposits in response to cash calls by members' agents. Lord Justice Leggatt and Mr Justice Popplewell ruled that the

names should never have been given leave to seek judicial review because this was a remedy available only in cases of public law, involving public bodies.

The names now face a bill for legal costs awarded against them on an "indemnity" basis — the highest possible level of costs. It will amount to tens of thousands of pounds.

David Coleridge, chairman of Lloyd's, said the ruling continued a series of judgments in favour of Lloyd's in recent months.

"While we have every sympathy with those who have suffered losses, our duty is to ensure that the society as a whole continues to be able to offer policyholders unrivalled security," he said. "To do this, we must be able to draw

money to pay valid claims promptly."

Alfred Doll-Steinberg, chairman of the Gooda Walker Action Group, said the ruling was a serious setback, but added: "We haven't given up the idea of a judicial review by any means."

The names will decide next week whether to appeal against the High Court decision. They were urging a review on the grounds that Lloyd's had failed to discharge its responsibilities and acted outside its powers.

Mr Coleridge, who said he would stand for "a couple of years" when he took office in January 1991, is likely to make way for a successor under the new market structure proposed by Sir Jeremy Morse's working party.

MFI bounces onto market at a premium

By MICHAEL TATE
CITY EDITOR

FIRST-TIME dealings in MFI Furniture Group shares defied all the odds to close at a 2p premium to their issue price of 115p.

Despite the low take-up by private investors in last week's offer for sale, the City had continued to insist that the 115p offer price would prove to be a bargain, and institutional investors backed their judgment yesterday by supporting the share price after it opened at 113p.

The institutions had liked the shares all along, as their enthusiasm in mopping up the 410 million share placing had demonstrated. The shares ended the day at 117p, despite the market's 51.5-point fall yesterday.

City urged to pay up for Mirror fraud

By ANGELA MACKAY

SIR John Cuckney, chairman of the Maxwell Pensioners Trust, yesterday officially started calling for cash from the City to plug the gap made by the late Robert Maxwell when he stole £450 million from group pension funds.

After the signing of the trust's deeds yesterday, Sir John launches his appeal in a letter to *The Times* today, in which he calls for "a wide response from all with a concern for the difficulties faced by Maxwell pensioners or for the structure and good name of the financial services and pensions industries which have been threatened by the Maxwell affair".

The trust has been established within a special unit of the department of social security which is working with



Cuckney: seeking millions

liquidators and others to recover the missing funds.

"I don't want too many shrinking violets around. I will give those interested in donating guidance on what is an appropriate amount, particularly if they are connected in some way with Maxwell companies," Sir John said.

Creation of the trust coincided with renewed trading of shares in Mirror Group Newspapers after an eight-month suspension.

The value of the company was more than halved when shares were marked down by 75p to open at 50p. MGN closed at 52.5p after a turnover of 18 million shares, representing about 2 per cent of issued share capital.

Sir John said yesterday that he was confident that contributions would be made although he was cautious about setting a target amount to be raised. He was expecting "tens of millions of pounds in contributions".

Sir John said: "I have been lobbying the City and to date there has been a logjam caused by people not wishing to be among the first to contribute. But I am sure that

blockage has now been cleared. I am certainly pleased with the expressions of intentions to contribute made to me so far."

The chairman also said there were very complicated legal issues to be considered and that this had made many cautious about contributing. This refers to the legal action pending against some financial institutions and also the possibility of future action against other lenders or advisers. No company wishes to pay twice — voluntarily to the trust and forcibly by a court.

Sir John said contributions to the trust would demonstrate the City's concern to restate its good name. So far, two groups have publicly pledged £225,000 between them to the trust.

Letters, page 17

GET MORE FROM YOUR RETIREMENT LUMP SUM

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Address _____

Postcode _____ months

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M&S chief signals cuts but rules out price war

By MARTIN WALLER

MARKS and Spencer hopes to cut prices this autumn after cost-cutting and efficiencies achieved with its suppliers.

But Sir Richard Greenbury, chairman, ruled out a price war at yesterday's annual meeting, despite "the most severe recession since the war".

Sir Richard said trading over the past three months had been "very difficult", with consumer confidence remaining low.

But with commitments and stocks well under control, summer reductions would be significantly less than last year.

"All put together, that should mean an improved

first-half performance this year and ensure that the profitability of the company stays high," he said.

This year Marks was surpassed by its rival J. Sainsbury as Britain's most profitable retailer. But Sir Richard rejected suggestions that Marks might attempt to regain its supremacy by hefty margin cuts aimed at tempting custom away from its rivals.

"We have always given good value for money and we will not become involved in a discount war," he said. But the company and its suppliers had improved efficiency and reduced costs over the past year, and these benefits could now be passed on to customers.

"The vast majority of selling prices this autumn will be the same as, and in many cases lower than, last year," he said.

Any reductions in margins, therefore, will be designed to be more than compensated for by sales. Any price freezes or cuts will be across the group's product range, covering clothing, homeware and food.

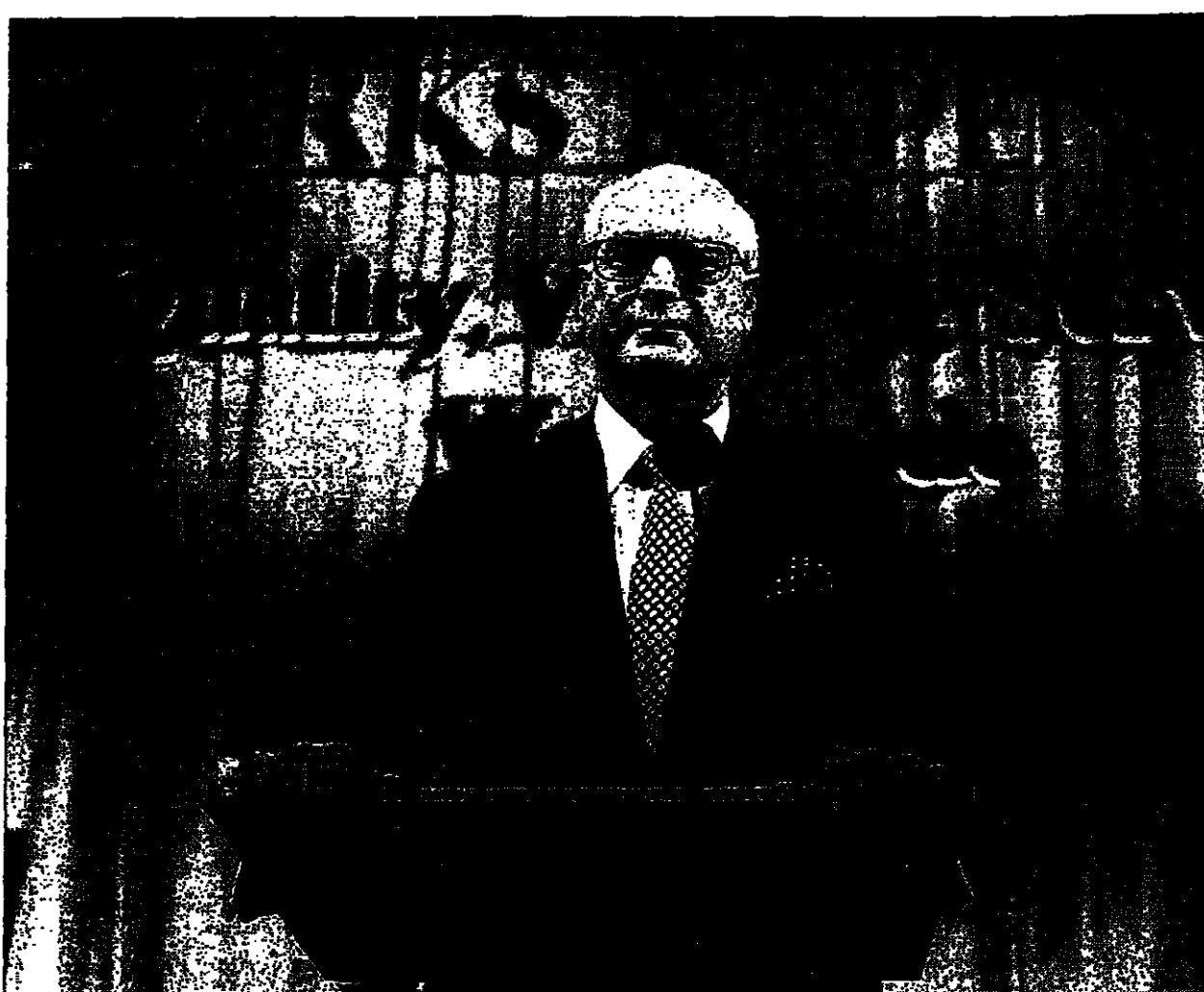
Marks is investing more than £300 million in the coming year. Expansion continues overseas, with a store in Nice planned for the autumn and a site in Valencia now acquired. In America, Brooks Brothers and Kings Super Markets remained profitable despite the recession.

Sir Richard has dealt another blow to the Stock Exchange's delayed paperless dealing system, Taurus, by refusing to recommend to shareholders that the company's shares be traded on the electronic system of registering share certificates.

He said the Marks board had noted Taurus had been "plagued" by problems, was "not live" and untested.

Sir Richard told Marks shareholders he felt it would be prudent to observe how effectively the new system copes with smaller registrations before using it for Marks' 300,000-strong corporate shareholder base.

A Stock Exchange spokeswoman downplayed the decision, saying many companies, big and small, had agreed to the switch.



Blow for Taurus: Sir Richard Greenbury, M&S chief, refused to recommend the system to shareholders yesterday

Goode Durrant in the red

DEREK Kingsbury, the new chairman of Goode Durrant, the Northgate vehicle hire to housebuilding conglomerate, has acted quickly to get the balance sheet into shape. Profits for the year ended last April are wiped out by £6.27 million of exceptional items. The group reports a pre-tax loss of £1.13 million, against profits of £7.37 million.

The final dividend is 3.25p, pegging the total at 5.4p. The impact on the balance sheet is to reduce shareholders' funds by £9 million to £50.5 million and net assets from 112p to 95p a share.

Cooper settles

Frederick Cooper has settled out of court a legal action brought against the vendors of a business bought in 1988, accepting £1.49 million.

AH Ball buys

AH Ball is buying KD Process International for £2.87 million.

BICC invests

BICC has invested a further £12.5 million in Grupo General Cable and now owns 67 per cent.

Serif disposal

Serif has sold its bingo printing operation to Arrow International for £1.7 million.

GUS results

Yesterday's report on the trading results of Great Universal Stores gave some of the divisional figures incorrectly. Financial services' profits were £139.3 million, against £139.3 million, property rentals' profits were £62.2 million, against £59.1 million, and Burberrys' profits £32.3 million, against £29.1 million. The earnings per share figure of 122.5p, against 116.3p, excluded exceptional items, not property profits, as was stated.

Brasway

The chairman of Brasway, the West Midlands engineering group, is Mark Swaby, not as stated yesterday, his father, Reg Swaby, who stepped down last year.

All eyes are on lombard rate in ERM season of discontent

By COLIN NARBROUGH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE Bundesbank decision to raise one of its key lending rates by a further three-quarter point appears to have been made against the wishes of both the Bonn government and the Bundesbank president.

The hike in the discount rate to a record 8.75 per cent prompted fears of preparation for an increase after the central bank's summer recess in the internationally more important lombard rate. This official rate sets a ceiling for German money market rates and an effective floor for interest rates in Europe. Any increase in lombard would almost certainly force ERM countries to follow suit, or sow the seeds of destruction of the parity grid and plans for European monetary union.

Although some German commentators argue that the hard-liners of the Bundesbank were defeated over raising lombard, it appears that the increase in the domestically focused discount rate was opposed by Professor Schlesinger and his deputy, Hans Tietmeyer.

Professor Schlesinger, who for months has been suggesting that the next rate move would be down, gave a strong hint on Thursday that he had been out-gunned by the hardliners on his bank's 18-man policy-setting council. Asked how his earlier remarks fitted with a rate hike, he pointed out that he had "only one vote" on the committee.

Despite Bundesbank independence of government in setting monetary policy, Bonn left no doubt that it was against the central bank move, as it fears that the German economy could be slowed more than necessary to cure its inflation problem. Chancellor Kohl told Gro Harlem Brundtland, the Norwegian prime minister, that he had personally advised against a rate increase.

As Professor Schlesinger said, a higher discount rate is not merely cosmetic. Gerhard Grebe, chief economist at Bank Julius Bär,

calculates the direct impact of the rate hike to be a DM540 million narrowing of bank margins, which he expects the banks will pass on to customers. Because of the rate rise, he expects west German growth this year of 1 per cent instead of 1.3 per cent forecast earlier.

Professor Schlesinger's assurance that German money market rates were not about to be changed was reinforced yesterday by the Bundesbank pumping extra liquidity into the market. The injection was also indicated no lombard adjustment was planned.

Despite formal Bundesbank concern about money supply growth well above target, Professor Schlesinger poured great doubt on the value of the broad money aggregate, given the distortions arising from subsidised credit for the reconstruction of east Germany and the inverse yield curve. The December rate hikes appear to have speeded up M3 growth rather than braked it, throwing into question the usefulness of higher rates.

The creditors were refused leave to appeal to the House of Lords, but Dr Elias said he would discuss with his lawyers the possibility of asking the law lords for leave.

He said later: "I am completely annoyed and disappointed. It is not fair. We are fighting for all the creditors and my message to Abu Dhabi is that we are not going to go away."

Mr Stephen Akers, one of BCCI's UK liquidators, said: "We are obviously very pleased and will be considering the Court of Appeal's judgment in detail."

Mr Keith Vaz, MP for Leicester East, who has consistently campaigned for a better deal for BCCI staff and customers, including many Asian businessmen in his constituency, said: "This is an awful decision and a body blow to the creditors' campaign for justice."

He called for the immediate publication of Lord Justice Bingham's report on BCCI.

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A well liked and respected figure in the City, Sir Patrick was knighted in 1981 for services to industry. He joined Rank's board in 1979 and became chairman in 1983 as part of a management shake-up. Michael Gifford took over as chief executive and managing director at the same time.

The Meaneys-Gifford partnership turned Rank from a sickly, loss-making company into a fitter and profitable one. The acquisition of Meaneys in 1990 made the company Britain's biggest operator of bingo halls, casinos and night clubs.

Meaneys: liked in the City

Man who revived Rank dies at 67

By DEREK HARRIS

SIR Patrick Meaneys, under whose chairmanship Rank Organisation grew into Britain's biggest leisure company, has died at the age of 67.

A well liked and respected figure in the City, Sir Patrick was knighted in 1981 for services to industry. He joined Rank's board in 1979 and became chairman in 1983 as part of a management shake-up. Michael Gifford took over as chief executive and managing director at the same time.

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Creditors fail to block BCCI payout deal

By A CORRESPONDENT

A GROUP of creditors of the collapsed Bank of Credit and Commerce International failed yesterday in a bid to block the controversial 30p-in-the-£1 payout deal sanctioned by the High Court last month.

The deal involves the injection of £830 million by the Abu Dhabi government, BCCI's majority shareholder. It was approved by the High Court despite its rejection as inadequate by a 7-1 majority of the BCCI's creditors committee, who had urged further talks with Abu Dhabi. The committee decided not to appeal against the High Court's seal of approval because of the costs involved.

But a group of creditors led by Dr Adil Elias, chairman of the BCCI Depositors' Protection Association, took over the appeal. Yesterday they lost their case and were ordered to pay both their own costs and those of BCCI's liquidators, Touche Ross.

The creditors were refused leave to appeal to the House of Lords, but Dr Elias said he would discuss with his lawyers the possibility of asking the law lords for leave.

He said later: "I am completely annoyed and disappointed. It is not fair. We are fighting for all the creditors and my message to Abu Dhabi is that we are not going to go away."

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Jacques Vert has £2.8m loss and closes in US

HEAVY stock provisions and the cost of closing a factory sent Jacques Vert, the womenswear group, into a £2.81 million pre-tax loss in the year to April 27, against profits of £3.01 million last time. There is no final dividend and the shares have dropped 5p to 44p.

Jacques Vert has already announced the closure of a factory in Upton, West Yorkshire. In addition the group is withdrawing from retailing in America, with the closure of three outlets. This and the discontinuation of its Alain Cannelle label left a further £1.84 million extraordinary loss. Retained losses were £3.94 million, against a £47,000 profit, and losses per share of 21.27p contrasted with profits of 21.36p. Shareholders are left with the interim dividend of 2p, against a total last time of 10p.

Murdoch leaves Ansett

RUPERT Murdoch, chairman of News Corporation, is to stand down as joint chairman and chief executive of Ansett Transport Industries, the Australian aviation group. He will be replaced by Ken Cowley, chairman and chief executive of News Ltd, the international media group's main Australian publishing subsidiary. Ansett is jointly owned by News Corporation, which owns The Times, and by TNT, the Australian transport group. Mr Murdoch, who is leaving Ansett after 13 years, said: "I believe that its staff and customers, and the shareholders of News Corporation, will be better served at this time of change by the direct stewardship that Mr Cowley can provide." Ansett has run a domestic Australian airline but News Corporation and TNT have decided to expand its operations internationally.

Henlys fights back

T. COWIE, the motor dealer bidding £26 million for Henlys Group, is a finance company with heavy borrowings and volatile earnings, according to the first defence document from Henlys, which now has to post a loss estimate rather than the usual profit statement with the document. But the expected first half pre-tax loss to end-June of £900,000, after a £950,000 exceptional item, compared with a loss of £4.51 million last time, and the interim dividend will be held at 1p.

Power property sale

POWER Corporation, a property group based in Ireland, wants to sell a 50 per cent interest in three properties — in London, Blackpool and Los Angeles — which it acquired from Brent Walker in March. The board proposes to pass the final dividend for the 15 months to March 31, leaving a total of 1r2p (1.87p). Power Corporation reported pre-tax profits of £12.4 million (£11.6 million) in the 15-month period, compared with £15.59 million in calendar 1990.

Tarmac to raise £60m

TARMAC, the construction group, is raising £60 million by selling Briggs Oil, a bitumen and distillates refiner, to Nynas Petroleum, of Sweden. The price is £70 million, subject to adjustment, but Tarmac has agreed to make payments to Shell Petroleum that will allow Nynas into a bitumen refinery venture jointly owned by Briggs and Shell. Tarmac has agreed to buy a substantial proportion of its annual bitumen needs from Briggs.

Dow tumbles 36 points

New York — The Dow Jones industrial average was 36.47 points down at 3,325.16 at 1.15pm as pessimism grew because of several disappointing earnings reports, coupled with weak economic indicators and political uncertainty. George Pironne, a senior dealer at Piretus Corporation, said: "The first ingredients (of the decline) aside from the trade figures were Apple, Storage Tech and IBM's opening. People saw that and saw gold running, which told them: 'Hey, maybe there is something bad out there.' And they sold the market." A decline in American exports and a decline in imports for May confirmed fears that the economy is in a holding pattern. (Reuters)

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Cray pulling force: Sir Peter Michael, the chairman

Wellcome mat laid for the long haul

TEMPUS

INSTITUTIONAL investors have already brought the Wellcome share price down 22 per cent since the £3 billion share sale was announced at the start of March, so they need no advice from this column. Most, it is clear, will be applying for shares under the tender offer, pitching their bids at anything between £8 and £8.50.

Retail shareholders have cause to be somewhat confused at this point in the offer, not least because the structure adopted for this and, increasingly, other large share issues does not seem to invite their participation.

First off, the Wellcome offer is not aimed at the Sids and Franks. The advisers' own acronym for their target is the Henwis — high net worth individuals prepared to put in the minimum investment of £1,000 or more. This is not an issue for the stags indeed, the seller of the shares, the Wellcome Trust, is by its own charitable status precluded from a giveaway sale.

Private shareholders, who

must apply by Tuesday afternoon, do not have to worry about the tender aspect. They will receive shares at the striking price that emerges from the institutional tender offer, which should be about the minimum discount to the current quoted price needed to get the issue away.

Wellcome shares were worth 870p as the market closed last night. A 5 per cent discount, the best guess at this stage, suggests a striking price of about 830p. At this price the shares would sell on about 23 times this year's profits, against 20.7 for the most comparable stock, Glaxo Holdings. The shares are clearly no steal. The market has fallen out of love with pharmaceuticals since the start of the year.

Some advance from current levels should come once the sale is out of the way, but it will not be dramatic. On the other hand, Wellcome will be about for some time. Those prepared to stay in for a longish haul might consider

the likely level of discount and the savings on dealing costs an attractive way in to Wellcome.

Cray

WITH its well flagged £50 million acquisition of Dowty's information technology operations, Cray's metamorphosis from a mixed bag of electronic engineering businesses with discredited accounting procedures, to a sharply focused, debt-free data communications group, is virtually complete.

Trading results from Cray for the year ended last April, showing pre-tax profits up from £3.5 million to £4.8 million, played second fiddle yesterday to confirmation of the Dowty deal, and the accompanying £39 million rights issue, but needed little scrutiny to show just how successfully Sir Peter Michael, the chairman, has pulled the group round. Earnings per share were up by almost a

third, at 3.2p; gearing, which was 250 per cent in 1990, halved to 71 per cent, and shareholders collect their first dividend since early 1989, an 0.5p final.

The new acquisition looks ripe for the Michael treatment, having earned less than £2 million in its last full year on a turnover of £170 million. Some £20 million of general electronic business will be released, but the new owner expects to lift margins to Cray's current 10 per cent plus within a couple of years.

Given the potential of a deregulating market, only just adopting world standards, the price could be a snip. Certainly Sir Peter should have little trouble winning shareholder support for a one-for-two rights issue at 61p, unless the market accelerates its fall on Monday.

Cray shares, suspended on Thursday, will not return until holders have approved this deal, but should not concede much of their pre-suspension price of 75p. Shareholders should take up their rights where they can.

BUSINESS PROFILE: John Willan

Orchestrator of a classical success story

Running one of five major orchestras in London is not just a matter of fun, as John Willan told Carol Leonard

If you were the managing director of a company selling a service to the public and you had two direct competitors operating from the same pitch, one of three things would happen: You would merge, relocate or go out of business.

John Willan, the managing director of a £6 million turnover business, finds himself in exactly that position. He has attempted a merger, is hopeful that relocation of his competitors might yet take place but accepts that it would be extremely difficult for any one of them to cease trading.

The problem Willan faces is that he and his two immediate rivals are orchestras. For the past seven years he has been managing director of the London Philharmonic. Orchestras, he explains, are effectively run as co-operatives by the 80 or so musicians they comprise, are registered as charities and funded, in part, by the government.

"It's very easy to put down a dog or a horse but very difficult to put down an orchestra," says Willan, aged 49. "If it began trading insolvent, the players would simply take a cut in wages."

The cause of his difficulties is that London has too many orchestras. It has five, including the BBC, and even regular concert goers get confused. Of the other four, the London Symphony Orchestra is based at the Barbican while the London Philharmonic, the Philharmonia and the Royal Philharmonic have been battling it out for supremacy at the Royal Festival Hall.

The Philharmonia was consistently tipped as the favourite to win that South Bank battle but, after a review by an independent committee, the London Philharmonic emerged triumphant. It will, with effect from September, be the official resident there, a status which gives it priority for both performances and rehearsals. Willan is widely acknowledged as the man who tipped the balance in the London Philharmonic's favour. An accountant by training — he spent 11 months with Slater Walk-

er Securities before opting to do a music degree instead — he prepared what he claims was the first business plan for any arts organisation. He also sacked a member of the orchestra's long-serving administrative staff. "I knew very quickly that I would have to make fundamental changes," he says. "The whole orchestra waited to see whether I had the stomach to deal with the problems they knew existed in the office. It took me about 14 months. The first thing I did was instruct everybody to work from 9.30am to 5.30pm, with an hour for lunch. We lost our switchboard operator straight away."

He also introduced marketing — the London Philharmonic became the first British orchestra to use an advertising agency — a concept still regarded with suspicion. "Even now there is a lot of antagonism towards this thing, marketing, like anything people do not understand. It's as if they think there is something slightly tacky about it. I had to change attitudes from that of having a God-given right to be here, and of having a God-given right to receive money from the Arts Council, to being a hard-hitting organis-

ation, actively competing with the other orchestras." In 1986, a year after his arrival, Willan — the son of a NatWest bank manager and a lifelong Conservative — launched a takeover bid for the Philharmonia. The orchestra world was in uproar. Worthy commentators decreed that it would be better for London to have two brilliant orchestras than four good ones. But the offer was indignantly rejected. "The boss was outraged," Willan recalls. "The shareholders were the players and they did not want anything to do with it. They had a meeting and tore up their voting cards."

Willan smiles wryly. He is a quiet but determined man. The Philharmonia may yet rue the day it spurned his advance. When it came to competing for the residency, Willan was able to point to the progressive changes he had already introduced. He also insisted he was



Music man: John Willan has introduced the alien concept of marketing to the orchestra

only interested in sole residency. The others were still talking lamely about the changes they would introduce if they got the residency.

"It means I am seen as aggressive, abrasive and go-getting, and so is this organisation," says Willan. "I set out to be that. I don't think you fight by sitting behind your desk meekly saying yes sir, no sir, to anybody who calls up."

Willan's efforts have seen the turnover of the London Philharmonic increase from £1.8 million in 1985 to almost £6 million and he is hopeful that a deficit of £270,000 last year will be improved to at least break even this year. His efforts to produce profits are, however, hindered by the continued presence of his two competitors. "If you were talking about any other business,

this kind of situation would not be allowed to remain. If you see them as national assets, in receipt of national funding, it could be argued that it is a waste of resources. Quite what you do about it is the problem." He compares the London Philharmonic to the New York Philharmonic, which labours under no such handicap. Half of its annual funding comes from the box office. The London Philharmonic generates just 20 per cent of its funding that way. "That is because we are doing perhaps 50 concerts a year while they are doing 125 and that in turn is because they are the only orchestra there."

Willan is under no illusion about the size of his task, despite his success at winning the residency. The management structure of the

London Philharmonic needs to be radically altered — "It is too much of a pyramid for a business of this size, I need to flatten it out, to have more horizontal levels" — and although the government has increased its annual contribution from £462,000 to £1 million, it still has pressing financial problems.

"I do an awful lot of fell walking with my father and getting the residency was a bit like getting to the top of a very steep hill. It is hard work and you wonder why it has to hurt so much. You think that when you get there, there will be a wonderful view and that it will be easy going down. What you forget is that it is just as painful on your legs going downhill if you are carrying a back pack."

A year ago he was offered an

escape route — to run the New York Philharmonic instead. But Willan declined the offer. His reason was simple. He knew that he would miss his children — Ben, aged nine, Sam, eight — too much. Divorced from their mother, Sarah, he sees them at weekends. He has photos of them blu-tacked to his office wall and repeatedly pulls them down so that you and he can gaze at them intently.

Willan is now firmly committed to staying with the London Philharmonic for several more years — salary £63,000 — directing its affairs from the top floor of a tall, narrow Georgian house. The building has neither lift nor air conditioning. Willan has unbuttoned his blue chambray shirt at the neck and cuffs. He is, he says, still occasionally troubled by the failure his divorce represents, and cites his job as one of the causes. For the first two years he worked long hours. "It was an absolute nightmare here."

Yet the warmth and affection he displays when talking about his children is not typical. At least not superficially so. Judy Grahame, a marketing consultant with the orchestra, who has lived with Willan for the past five years, says that it is only with his children that he is publicly demonstrative. She recalls the first time she met him, in the London Philharmonic's offices, when he was still employed as head of Thorn EMI's classical production. "I didn't like him at all. I thought he was cool, aloof and arrogant." Their second meeting, at the Edinburgh Festival, was marginally more promising. Willan watched Grahame struggling to cope with a temperamental conductor, Klaus Tennstedt. "I was terribly inexperienced and Tennstedt was giving me the run around. John called me to one side and said if he sees that you're scared, he gets worse."

Willan has always been good at understanding human psychology. He is less good at understanding his own. "I'm told that I come across as hard and intimidating but I don't feel hard and intimidating. I just want to get to the bottom of whatever it is we are discussing."

He then admits, after a lengthy discussion, that he is a succession of contradictions. He is, he insists, shy. Yet he was once a talented amateur actor. Educated at Magdalen College, Oxford, on a choral

scholarship, as a child he had an exceptionally good treble voice. "When professionals in the orchestra criticised me for never having been a professional musician, I smile. I was a professional musician from the age of nine to 13."

But he was not a natural performer. "I didn't enjoy singing solos." At school he was one of the naughtiest boys. "I broke every rule in the book. I smoked and drank from the age of ten and I used to be beaten with a cane three or four times a week." Yet now he prides himself on being unfailingly polite, never swearing and never losing his temper. If something angers him in a board meeting, no one, he says, will be aware of it. The stronger the feeling, the more he will be determined to control it. He admits — by way of a compliment — that Judy Grahame is the only woman with whom he has ever lost his temper.

"At boarding schools in the 1950s you were taught to hide your emotions," says Willan. "I used to see my parents once a term and I'm quite certain that I left not as well equipped emotionally as I would have been if I had been brought up at home. Boarding school damaged my psyche. It also taught me to question every rule."

Willan adds that he is a loner, has very few friends and largely shuns the London social life his job makes so readily available. According to Grahame he often takes violent likes or dislikes to people. "His idea

of a nightmare is to socialise... and yet if you put him with interesting people he will stay up all night and be very amusing. He has a great sense of humour, it is just a question of whether he can be bothered to show it."

Left to himself, Willan is inclined to be solitary and serious. The closest he is likely to get to losing his temper is if anyone suggests it must be fun to work in the arts. "I do get jolly cross with those people who just think it's quite fun to be in the arts," he says. "I think we need to take running arts organisations much more seriously, with first-class managers, finance directors and marketing directors, not just people who love the arts and jolly along." His mask finally begins to crack. He smiles and relaxes into his chair. "I suppose I can be a bit earnest on this subject," he says. "I can see people thinking, 'Oh, there goes Willan again'."

'I think we need to take running arts organisations more seriously, with first-class managers'

Matthew Bond

Bundesboy network forces UK off well-worn financial tracks

Psst! Yes you. Over here. Oh sorry, didn't mean to make you jump. What's that, you didn't recognise me? Ah, you mean the disguise — quite fetching these Lederhosen, don't you think?

Why all the cloak and dagger stuff? You may well ask. And I may well tell you, if you'll move just a little bit closer. Don't want to tell the whole world, do we — walls have ears, careless talk... all that sort of thing. Careful, mind the dagger.

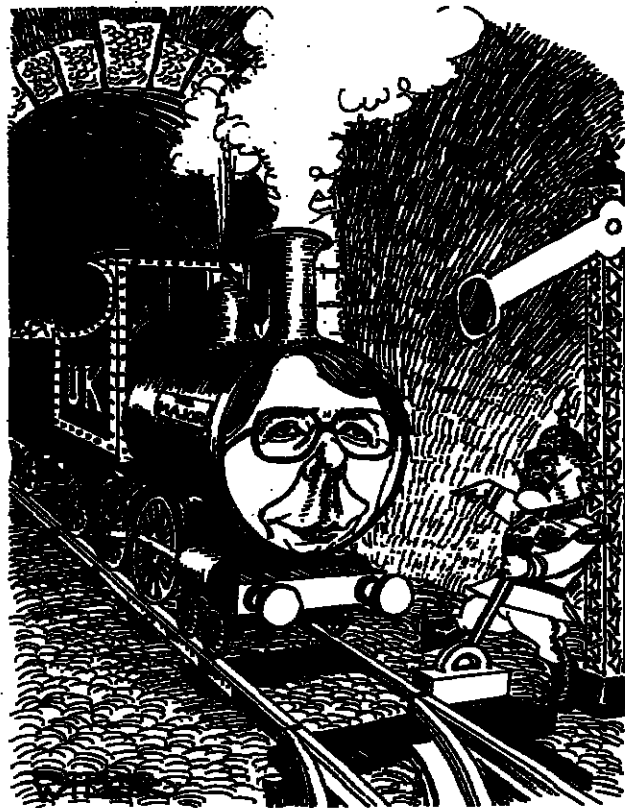
Now, this is strictly between you and me, because... well, frankly I think I'm on to something pretty big.

It was those clever johnnies at Hillier Parker who first set the alarm bells ringing. Damn good chaps for property agents. Anyway, they tend to keep their ears pretty close to the ground in the Square Mile, not many deals get past them. Not that you would imagine there were many deals these days, what with interest rates having pretty much done for the old property spec' boys.

But guess what the HP team has unearthed? Like who, for instance, is buying all that recession-surplus office stock? Apart, I mean, from the splendid spend-for-recovery bunch. Go on, three guesses.

No, not the Japanese — got quite enough on their plate already. Same goes for the Swedes I'm afraid... and the Dutch. Give up? Thought you might. Because it seems the only active service investors in the City are... Germans. Yes, thought that might surprise you. And doesn't it make you think?

Certainly made poor old David Goldstone — you know, the chap who built the new SIS HQ — think. There he was with this nice building by Southwark Bridge, fully let to a perfectly chipper tenant. Had to be worth £43 million if it was worth a penny. Well, that was what David thought until Regalian, his company, found itself in need of a bob or two. He puts it up for sale and along comes this German



investor who says he might, just might, be able to take the thing off Regalian's books. So David says thank you, that'll be £43 million. What does the German do? Only turns round and says "Nein, danke. How about £38 million?"

Well, David protests, of course. Shows the German the books and the rents. Points out that an 11 per cent return is only marginally less generous than a British MP's allowance. But does our Teutonic friend budge, does he bend even one degree? He does not — he budes. Ah, I can see I've lost you.

Bundesing is their latest secret negotiating weapon, very hush-hush and absolutely fiendish. In short, what our chap does is tell David that Herr Schlesinger at the Bundesbank is a close friend, that Thursday's meeting looks a close call and that his offer will be £30 million by Friday morning. What choice does poor David have, especially

with 20 luxury, Lombard-dependent flats to sell in Kensington at £4 million a throw. He takes the money and provides.

Mind you, if my intelligence is right, the Germans are not going to stop with office blocks and ritzy flats, oh no. Take luxury cars, for instance, and if we don't, they will. You only have to mention the Bundesbank and sales of Rolls-Royces stall. Pretty convenient if you're BMW, eh? A couple more dabs on the old Lombard pedal and Vickers will be lucky to get the price of a couple of series seven saloons for the Flying Lady.

Of course, we're fighting back, although it has to be said that the gallant Major's zero option is still some way from being ready. Nothing wrong with the idea... beat them at their own game and all that. The economic boffins have got us well on the way to zero inflation and zero in-

creases in earnings, but there are still some pretty serious teething troubles to be ironed out — like zero economic growth and the fact that the Treasury's computer only responds to commands keyed in in German. Apparently, it gets particularly confused when the word Chancellor is keyed in, but our chaps have high hopes for a Lamont override they've been working on. Then there are the development costs, although I'm not sure I can quite credit the Whitehall whisper of £35 billion this year alone. But I suppose someone will have to.

Where will it all end, you ask? My Lederhosen mission, I'm afraid, suggests the prospects are pretty bleak. On Tuesday, our ministry boys rolled out the privatisation of British Rail, splitting the current organisation into three — Railtrack, BR and The Regulator, or Fat Controller as he is known in the mess. It took the Germans just 24 hours to bundle the plan, although this time with *bahn* not bank. The Bundesbahn is to be merged with the Reichsbahn, with the combined operation being split into three private companies in five years time, but only after being relieved of all their debt by the German government. How long before the plucky Mr Branson finds his Virgin trains competing with DR on the east coast line?

And it is less than a fortnight since the Germans announced that the European fighter would have to fly without them. But while jet fighters are grounded, civilian aircraft are taking off — with the German government accelerating the sale of its remaining 20 per cent stake in Deutsche Airbus, the German partner in the Airbus project, to Daimler-Benz. DB said it will reorganise its aerospace interests by October.

Shares in British Aerospace, the Brits in the Airbus project, have been rising on bid speculation. The smart money was on GEC. But I wouldn't Bundesbank on it.

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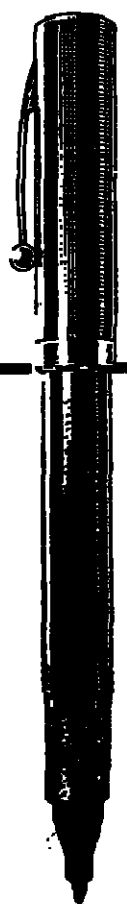
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BRITISH FUNDS

1992	1991	1990	1989	1988	1987	1986	1985	1984	1983	1982	1981	1980	1979	1978	1977	1976	1975	1974	1973	1972	1971	1970	1969	1968	1967	1966	1965	1964	1963	1962	1961	1960	1959	1958	1957	1956	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946	1945	1944	1943	1942	1941	1940	1939	1938	1937	1936	1935	1934	1933	1932	1931	1930	1929	1928	1927	1926	1925	1924	1923	1922	1921	1920	1919	1918	1917	1916	1915	1914	1913	1912	1911	1910	1909	1908	1907	1906	1905	1904	1903	1902	1901	1900	1899	1898	1897	1896	1895	1894	1893	1892	1891	1890	1889	1888	1887	1886	1885	1884	1883	1882	1881	1880	1879	1878	1877	1876	1875	1874	1873	1872	1871	1870	1869	1868	1867	1866	1865	1864	1863	1862	1861	1860	1859	1858	1857	1856	1855	1854	1853	1852	1851	1850	1849	1848	1847	1846	1845	1844	1843	1842	1841	1840	1839	1838	1837	1836	1835	1834	1833	1832	1831	1830	1829	1828	1827	1826	1825	1824	1823	1822	1821	1820	1819	1818	1817	1816	1815	1814	1813	1812	1811	1810	1809	1808	1807	1806	1805	1804	1803	1802	1801	1800	1799	1798	1797	1796	1795	1794	1793	1792	1791	1790	1789	1788	1787	1786	1785	1784	1783	1782	1781	1780	1779	1778	1777	1776	1775	1774	1773	1772	1771	1770	1769	1768	1767	1766	1765	1764	1763	1762	1761	1760	1759	1758	1757	1756	1755	1754	1753	1752	1751	1750	1749	1748	1747	1746	1745	1744	1743	1742	1741	1740	1739	1738	1737	1736	1735	1734	1733	1732	1731	1730	1729	1728	1727	1726	1725	1724	1723	1722	1721	1720	1719	1718	1717	1716	1715	1714	1713	1712	1711	1710	1709	1708	1707	1706	1705	1704	1703	1702	1701	1700	1699	1698	1697	1696	1695	1694	1693	1692	1691	1690	1689	1688	1687	1686	1685	1684	1683	1682	1681	1680	1679	1678	1677	1676	1675	1674	1673	1672	1671	1670	1669	1668	1667	1666	1665	1664	1663	1662	1661	1660	1659	1658	1657	1656	1655	1654	1653	1652	1651	1650	1649	1648	1647	1646	1645	1644	1643	1642	1641	1640	1639	1638	1637	1636	1635	1634	1633	1632	1631	1630	1629	1628	1627	1626	1625	1624	1623	1622	1621	1620	1619	1618	1617	1616	1615	1614	1613	1612	1611	1610	1609	1608	1607	1606	1605	1604	1603	1602	1601	1600	1599	1598	1597	1596	1595	1594	1593	1592	1591	1590	1589	1588	1587	1586	1585	1584	1583	1582	1581	1580	1579	1578	1577	1576	1575	1574	1573	1572	1571	1570	1569	1568	1567	1566	1565	1564	1563	1562	1561	1560	1559	1558	1557	1556	1555	1554	1553	1552	1551	1550	1549	1548	1547	1546	1545	1544	1543	1542	1541	1540	1539	1538	1537	1536	1535	1534	1533	1532	1531	1530	1529	1528	1527	1526	1525	1524	1523	1522	1521	1520	1519	1518	1517	1516	1515	1514	1513	1512	1511	1510	1509	1508	1507	1506	1505	1504	1503	1502	1501	1500	1499	1498	1497	1496	1495	1494	1493	1492	1491	1490	1489	1488	1487	1486	1485	1484	1483	1482	1481	1480	1479	1478	1477	1476	1475	1474	1473	1472	1471	1470	1469	1468	1467	1466	1465	1464	1463	1462	1461	1460	1459	1458	1457	1456	1455	1454	1453	1452	1451	1450	1449	1448	1447	1446	1445	1444	1443	1442	1441	1440	1439	1438	1437	1436	1435	1434	1433	1432	1431	1430	1429	1428	1427	1426	1425	1424	1423	1422	1421	1420	1419	1418	1417	1416	1415	1414	1413	1412	1411	1410	1409	1408	1407	1406	1405	1404	1403	1402	1401	1400	1399	1398	1397	1396	1395	1394	1393	1392	1391	1390	1389	1388	1387	1386	1385	1384	1383	1382	1381	1380	1379	1378	1377	1376	1375	1374	1373	1372	1371	1370	1369	1368	1367	1366	1365	1364	1363	1362	1361	1360	1359	1358	1357	1356	1355	1354	1353	1352	1351	1350	1349	1348	1347	1346	1345	1344	1343	1342	1341	1340	1339	1338	1337	1336	1335	1334	1333	1332	1331	1330	1329	1328	1327	1326	1325	1324	1323	1322	1321	1320	1319	1318	1317	1316	1315	1314	1313	1312	1311	1310	1309	1308	1307	1306	1305	1304	1303	1302	1301	1300	1299	1298	1297	1296	1295	1294	1293	1292	1291	1290	1289	1288	1287	1286	1285	1284	1283	1282	1281	1280	1279	1278	1277	1276	1275	1274	1273	1272	1271	1270	1269	1268	1267	1266	1265	1264	1263	1262	1261	1260	1259	1258	1257	1256	1255	1254	1253	1252	1251	1250	1249	1248	1247	1246	1245	1244	1243	1242	1241	1240	1239	1238	1237	1236	1235	1234	1233	1232	1231	1230	1229	1228	1227	1226	1225	1224	1223	1222	1221	1220	1219	1218	1217	1216	1215	1214	1213	1212	1211	1210	1209	1208	1207	1206	1205	1204	1203	1202	1201	1200	1199	1198	1197	1196	1195	1194	1193	1192	1191	1190	1189	1188	1187	1186	1185	1184	1183	1182	1181	1180	1179	1178	1177	1176	1175	1174	1173	1172	1171	1170	1169	1168	1167	1166	1165	1164	1163	1162	1161	1160	1159	1158	1157	1156	1155	1154	1153	1152	1151	1150	1149	1148	1147	1146	1145	1144	1143	1142	1141	1140	1139	1138	1137	1136	1135	1134	1133	1132	1131	1130	1129	1128	1127	1126	1125	1124	1123	1122	1121	1120	1119	1118	1117	1116	1115	1114	1113	1112	1111	1110	1109	1108	1107	1106	1105	1104	1103	1102	1101	1100	1099	1098	1097	1096	1095	1094	1093	1092	1091	1090	1089	1088	1087	1086	1085	1084	1083	1082	1081	1080	1079	1078	1077	1076	1075	1074	1073	1072	1071	1070	1069	1068	1067	1066	1065	1064	1063	1062	1061	1060	1059	1058	1057	1056	1055	1054	1053	1052	1051	1050	1049	1048	1047	1046	1045	1044	1043	1042	1041	1040	1039	1038	1037	1036	1035	1034	1033	1032	1031	1030	1029	1028	1027	1026	1025	1024	1023	1022	1021	1020	1019	1018	1017	1016	1015	1014	1013	1012	1011	1010	1009	1008	1007	1006	1005	1004	1003	1002	1001	1000	999	998	997	996	995	994	993	992	991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WEEKEND MONEY

THE TIMES SATURDAY JULY 18 1992

25

Edited by Lindsay Cook

The Joneses fall into discredit

COMMENT

LINDSAY COOK
WEEKEND MONEY EDITOR



The best pound most people can spend today is to check the details held on them by credit reference agencies. Those with common names, or who live in long streets or roads, would be wise to do it at once.

If anyone called Smith, living in Jones Avenue, has a bad credit record, there is a chance that all the Smiths will have their reputations damaged.

Credit reference agencies are used by lenders to help them to assess the creditworthiness of people applying for loans or credit cards. This swapping of information prevents people walking away from debts and then trying to borrow again.

But it can cause problems for those who have led blameless lives if neighbours, previous owners of their homes or relatives have run amok with credit cards or mail order catalogues.

Quite legitimately, the agencies can keep details of other people who have lived in a house before a credit applicant and of those with similar names at similar addresses. This is

helpful, lenders say, because fraudsters often use names that are false, but similar to their real ones.

Worries about the 100,000 or so people wrongly tarnished by others with whom they have no financial links means that the amount of information is to be curtailed. From the end of July next year, information on third parties will not be sent to lenders unless they have lived in a credit applicant's household.

Much more worrying are mistakes that are made and agencies' reluctance to correct them. A steady stream of Weekend Money readers complain about such errors and how they have had difficulty in getting them erased.

County court judgments are mistakenly put on the records of people with similar names at nearby addresses. In his annual report, published this week, Eric Howe, the data protection registrar, details the

case of a man whose credit rating was hurt by an insurance company's delay in paying out on his motor policy to another owner.

When asked to remove the debt from his personal records, the credit reference agency refused until the registrar was contacted. The agency was then advised that it was contravening the fourth data protection principle by keeping the information relating to the insurance company's slow payment on its files, as this was irrelevant in assessing the policyholder's creditworthiness. Sloppy applications by

lenders for county court judgments and typographical errors when the judgments are added to records can also give innocent people credit problems.

Lack of information on the records also needs to be rectified. Lenders are wary of anyone who is not on an electoral register. They may not be telling the truth about who they are. If credit reference records miss vital information like this, it might be difficult to get a loan from anyone.

The first step towards making sure the information is correct should be to apply to the main agencies for the

information held. Their addresses are on page 26. They are obliged under the Consumer Credit Act to send a copy of all the information they hold, if requested in writing. The fee is £1 per agency. Mistakes should be corrected and if agencies do not do this willingly, Mr Howe and his team are there to help.

APR algebra

Annual percentage rates are intended to help credit customers to work out how much they are really paying for their loans. Norwich Union customers might think otherwise.

The flat rate of 8 per cent charged on the company's monthly instalment plan for insurance premiums works out at an APR of 18.5 per cent. Those people more used to a credit card flat rate of 2 per cent a

month, working out at 26.8 per cent, or a mortgage rate of 10.65 per cent having an APR of 11.4 per cent, might want to know how 8 per cent becomes 18.5 per cent.

If they read the two-page explanation from Norwich Union, they might still be none the wiser, unless they were algebra whizzes at school. If R equals the rate of interest, N the payment month and S the instalment charge, the rate would be 8 per cent if the charge were added at the end of the year, says example one.

But as Norwich customers know, they are not charged at the end of the year. On page two, another — much longer — calculation shows how the sum being added at the outset and paid for over 12 months, means that R equal 0.185.

If lenders really want people to understand what they are paying, some easier way of expressing it has to be found. But at least Norwich Union is trying to explain its sums.

Credit card companies do their calculations in different ways and do not think to tell their customers how the APR is arrived at unless asked.

Self-regulation may not suffice: investors must protect themselves

Beware fast-talking and fast-driving investment cowboys

Lindsay Cook

offers a
step-by-step
guide to spotting
the identikit
fraudster

REGULATORS admit they are often the last to learn about fraudulent dealings by investment brokers and companies. They do not know money is missing until police arrest a salesman on his way out of the country or investors start telephoning to ask why a business has closed.

All too often rival firms and investors reveal, after the event, their suspicions about a fraudulent firm when it is too late to protect investors. Self-regulation does not provide the protection many investors expect. This means it is up to investors to protect themselves.

The majority of investment firms are, of course, honest and reliable but the Office of Fair Trading published two reports last month stating that investors are too trusting. Weekend Money has therefore produced a guide to help investors spot potential fraudsters or companies that are unlikely to live up to their published expectations.

Any one factor is not proof of fraud but if an adviser has too many of the characteristics, their actions, products and company should be scrutinised. If in doubt, do not invest. In the guide we refer to a potential fraudster as he, because it is rare for women to be tried or convicted for fraud.

□ Too complicated
The investment must be understandable. Too many people are easily persuaded they do not understand anything about finances and their clever adviser has devised a novel scheme. If it has not been done before, it could be illegal or unworkable. If an investment is too complicated it should be avoided.

□ Too many profits
Complicated investments may also promise high returns. If a company is producing better returns than competitors it is worth asking how. Barlow Clowes promised to pay more than gilts could produce. The Bank of Credit and Commerce International paid a higher rate than other banks.

Fancy certificates and regular statements of profits or interest being added to an account may mean nothing. If the company fails, the investors' compensation scheme will only pay out for money invested and realistic returns.

The best return is what most investors seek. It alone is not a sign of dishonesty. But if it is unrealistic, be wary. It may indicate efficient management or an organisation desperate for cash with a poor credit rating. The Securities and Investments Board warns investors in its booklet, *How to Spot the Investment Cowboy*, to be wary if their investments "seem to be doing very well when there is an economic slump and everyone else is doing badly". It points out that unrealistically high rates can be paid by using new investors' money to pay old.



Investors must always remember that the higher the return the greater the risk.

□ Too much in one basket
Investors should split savings across short-term and long-term, risky and safe investments according to their needs. Any adviser suggesting all an investor's money should go into his new wonder bond should be avoided, especially if he is tied to a reputable insurance company and the bond appears to be a private enterprise. The 300 investors who lost £4 million through Garston Amhurst, the died agent of Target learned this to their cost.

'Be wary if investments seem to be doing very well when there is an economic slump and everyone else is doing badly... The higher the return, the greater the risk'

□ Too extravagant
Many investors like to see well-dressed advisers driving expensive cars and eating in the best places. They do not realise he is doing it with their money. Robert Miller, in prison for defrauding 200 people out of £8 million through Dunsdale Securities, thought nothing of taking a client to France for lunch.

The broker's offices should be studied. Dunsdale's were in Mayfair, London, and as smart as a hotel suite. Good businesses do not waste expensive space on fabulous foyers complete with elaborate flower arrangements.

John Gerald Malone, a Rochdale broker, lavished cli-

ents' money on his staff and their offices. His clients had been offered high-performing bonds. They paid for high-performance cars. A check at the Financial Intermediaries Managers and Brokers Regulatory Association or the SIB's central register (071-929 3652) would have shown the firm was not authorised to hold clients' money. Investors should check a company's status, Fimbria said.

Avoid accommodation addresses. Respectable businesses do not have cupboards in a corner of the City or operate from post office box numbers. Real companies give full addresses and telephone num-

bers, not answerphones. If a Rolls-Royce is parked outside the office it may belong to an investor who has made a fortune from the advice, or to a director or a leasing company. Some fraudsters love the flying lady. John Wheeler, who ran McDonald Wheeler, the Canterbury fund manager, ran a Rolls-Royce, which inspired confidence in the clients — who lost up to £4 million. He was sentenced to eight years in prison in 1990.

Imperial Commodities, the old Etonian's company, lost nearly £500,000 when it crashed. Denis Dale-Greaves, an Exeter broker, bought three Rolls-Royces and had another

on order when he was arrested. He also had a Mercedes, Jaguar and motor boat. He offered guaranteed rates of interest that were worthless. He is now serving a six-year prison sentence.

□ Too risky
Those who are prepared to take too many risks with their clients' money may also like to gamble in their private life. Watch out for financial advisers who frequent casinos.

When time was running out for Garston Amhurst, one director asked for £25,000 of clients' money to be sent to a casino for him. Denis Dale-Greaves liked to put his clients' money on horses. He lost £6,000 on Desert Orchid in the Cheltenham Gold Cup.

□ Too greedy
Investment companies trying to cultivate greed in their clients should be avoided. Investors should be wary of any firm saying it has selected them because of their perception or suggesting this is an opportunity for ordinary people that is being deliberately kept away from the City.

If a scheme is viable, the company will go to the City to borrow money because it will be cheaper than dealing with thousands of individuals. No reputable firm telephones out of the blue offering the investment opportunity of a lifetime.

□ Too quick
If a salesman is anxious to get a deal done quickly and does not want the investors to consult others before making their decision, be wary. There is one fool born every minute.

A TOTAL of ten investment management firms have been declared in default by the Investors' Compensation Scheme (ICS), just two-and-a-half months into the scheme's new financial year. This is more than double the number of firms declared in default over the same period last year.

Nine out of ten of the firms declared in default since the start of this year were independent intermediaries regulated by the financial intermediaries, managers and brokers' regulatory organisation (Fimbria). Most of these firms arranged and sold life assurance, pensions and unit trusts, while one, Westcott Asset Management, acted as a broker fund adviser and managed investors' money on a discretionary basis. The tenth firm, UK and General Securities, was authorised by the Securities and Investments Board to trade in shares as an agent and as a principal.

The reasons why firms were declared in default varied, but most were suspended or had their licences revoked by Fimbria. Only one, L&A Investment Consultants, of Glasgow, resigned its membership. Because Fimbria suspensions normally prevent brokers from soliciting new business, the majority of the firms subsequently opt for voluntary or provisional liquidation or are placed in compulsory liquidation. Firms

cannot then pay their debts and are declared in default by the ICS, a necessary first step before investors can start making compensation claims under the scheme.

There has been a shift away from claims arising from straight theft since the scheme began, regulators say. Far more claims are now made by people hoping to receive "damages" for wrong advice. Regulators are sympathetic to the difficulties investors have sorting out good advice from bad. The Securities and Investments Board commented: "Regulators must bring out higher standards of competence in their members."

The ICS has paid out more than £20 million to 3,099 investors since the scheme began on August 27, 1988. It can pay up to £48,000 in compensation to those who have lost money because a firm has gone out of business or "misappropriated" money, possibly through fraud or theft. Investors are not guaranteed a payout from the scheme.

Of the 63 firms declared in

default since the scheme started, 44 have concerned possible misappropriations of money, including theft and fraud. Some of the others have just shown "plain incompetence," the SIB said, adding that "it is not unusual for firms in this situation not to keep their books well. This is why it sometimes takes time to process claims."

The cost of claims has risen substantially since the scheme started. ICS estimated this year that it may have to pay out £37 million to meet claims arising from defaults declared in 1991-2. More than £4.15 million has been paid out to 964 investors who had money with 16 of the firms declared in default in this past year. However, the ICS has not even begun to pay out on claims submitted by a further 16 firms declared in default in 1991-2.

These firms include two of the three firms most heavily involved in selling the ill-fated investment bond based home income plans. Aylesbury Associates and Acorn Insurance &

Mortgage Consultants. Four investors with another leading player in this market, Fisher Prew-Smith, received a total of £37,917 in 1991-2 while a further nine have been paid a total of £86,523 this year. Home income plans are one reason why the number of firms declared in default rose so dramatically last year, as the combination of a stagnant stock market and a moribund housing market spelt desperation for hundreds of thousands of elderly people who were encouraged to take out mortgages on their homes and invest the money in equity linked bonds, which were meant to produce enough money to cover the mortgage repayments and leave some income left over.

Wildly over optimistic stock market predictions from advisers were the undoing of many investors, who are now resorting to the compensation scheme. The SIB said: "People should shop around. They are not committed although they will come under a lot of pressure to commit themselves. We can't say that even if you follow all the rules for sensible investing that you will be absolutely safe. If you put your money into someone else's hands, it is possible they may misuse it. It is important to check their financial stability."

SARA MCCONNELL

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Lautro warns pension salesmen

GUIDELINES have been issued this week to stop personal pension salesmen from persuading employees to leave good company pension schemes. The Life Assurance and Unit Trust Regulatory Organisation is concerned at the number of complaints it has received and suspects the problem is much bigger as

people do not understand the fine points of pensions.

The guidelines say that salesmen should assume that transferring out of a final salary pension scheme to a personal pension would not constitute "best advice" unless he could demonstrate it was in the client's interest. To establish this, he would need

to study all the benefits to be paid by the client's occupational or money purchase scheme, including death benefit and spouse's pensions. Employees might also be excluded from permanent health insurance and other benefits if they are not a member of the occupational scheme.

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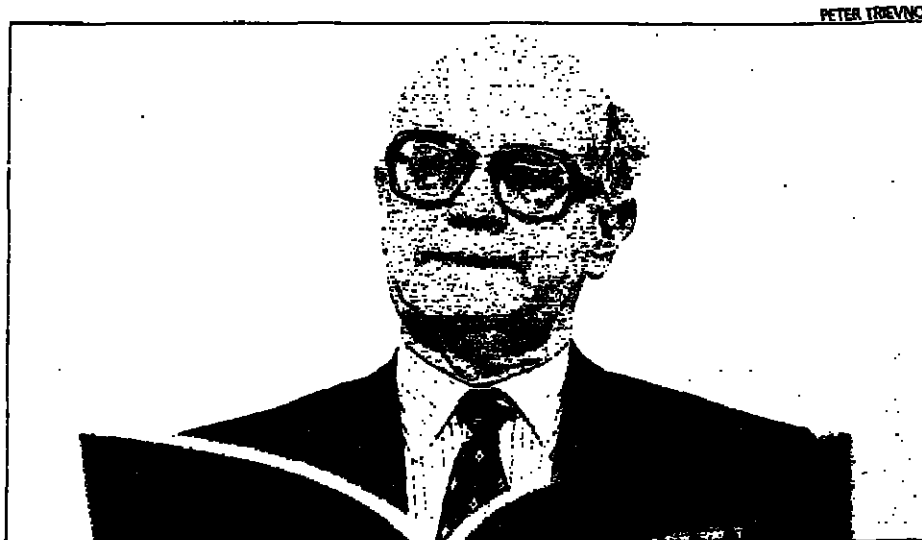
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Open book: Eric Howe at the Data Protection Registrars' conference this week

Credit data files cause concern

BY LINDSAY COOK, MONEY EDITOR

INCORRECT information on computerised records which blackens the reputations of credit applicants is causing concern.

About a third of the 1,747 complaints received at the office of Eric Howe, the data protection registrar, in the year ended May 31 were about consumer credit, his report says.

He said that many came from people refused credit when they and their family had an impeccable record. His office had last looked at the accuracy of files in 1988 and was about to undertake further scrutiny.

The problem often lay in the sparse information provided by lenders when applying for county court judgments. This information was passed on to credit reference agencies if a judgment was obtained and could be applied to the wrong records. It was possible for a judgment without giving any more information than a surname and an address, he said.

The eighth report of the Data Protection Registrar says that inputting mistakes or accurate material also causes difficulties. Until the end of next July, reference agencies can supply to lenders information about people who lived in their home before them to help them come to a decision about whether to grant a loan.

Information on any member of the household will continue to be supplied to lenders, it says.

Mr Howe said that, where there was no financial link between the family members, they may apply to have information about relatives removed from their personal records.

The report says that cases like the complaint from a woman who had credit refused because of bad debts of a

people know about what is kept on credit reference agency files is when they are refused credit or some other service or asked for a big deposit. Even then it is not always obvious what the difficulty is.

One woman was asked for a £200 deposit by BT before it would install a telephone because she was considered a bad credit risk. When she checked the file there was no adverse information but it stated that her name was not on the electoral register. After intervention from the registrar the requirement for a deposit was dropped.

A homeowner applying for a further advance to his mortgage was refused it because of a county court judgment registered at his address in a similar sounding name to his own. The judgment was against one of his neighbours and the information had been entered in his files because of a typographical error on the original summons.

Anyone who wants to find out what is on record about them can apply in writing for the information by sending £1 to the main credit reference agencies. These are CCN, Talbot House, Nottingham; NG1 5HE; InfoLink, Coombe Cross, 214 South End, Croydon CRO 1DL; and Equifax Europe, Spectrum House, North Avenue, Clydebank, Glasgow G81 2DR.

The first most people know about what is kept on credit reference agency files is when they are refused credit

son who left home seven years earlier, should be covered. But first the parent will need to know of the debts and what is on file before amendments can be applied for.

There are often difficulties when a member of a family incurs debts of which an applicant knows nothing and for which he or she has no responsibility. The innocent family member can be refused credit as a result. Mr Howe is keeping a separate record of such cases, the report says. It says that the first most

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Nominal rate Compounded at 25% 40% Maturity Investment £ Notice Contact

BANKS

Ordinary Dep A/c: 2.65 2.12 none 7 day

Fixed Term Deposits: 2.65 2.12 none 7 day

Bank of Scotland: 2.65 2.12 none 7 day

Bank of Ireland: 2.65 2.12 none 7 day

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M&G RECOVERY FUND PERFORMANCE RECORD

Year ended 31st December	£1,000 Lump Sum		£40 a month		
	Building Society	M&G Recovery	Amount Invested	Building Society	M&G Recovery
23 May 1969	£1,000	£1,000	£40	£40	£40
1969	1,028	1,136	280	285	304
1970	1,080	1,176	760	792	776
1971	1,134	1,920	1,240	1,324	1,924
1972	1,190	2,664	1,720	1,883	3,187
1973	1,268	2,272	2,200	2,504	3,118
1974	1,366	1,512	2,680	3,196	2,434
1975	1,466	2,640	3,160	3,930	4,825
1976	1,571	2,720	3,640	4,709	5,430
1977	1,682	5,960	4,120	5,542	12,536
1978	1,793	7,424	4,600	6,402	16,128
1979	1,947	8,920	5,080	7,458	19,831
1980	2,154	10,256	5,560	8,757	23,260
1981	2,356	12,000	6,040	10,084	27,690
1982	2,568	11,424	6,520	11,494	26,796
1983	2,759	16,272	7,000	12,843	38,694
1984	2,976	21,472	7,480	14,357	51,572
1985	3,240	27,080	7,960	16,135	65,543
1986	3,496	40,152	8,440	17,910	97,702
1987	3,768	50,136	8,920	19,798	122,427
1988	4,037	59,232	9,400	21,713	145,130
1989	4,418	72,616	9,880	24,267	178,404
1990	4,895	58,880	10,360	27,399	145,066
1991	5,308	62,400	10,840	30,208	154,167
30 June 1992	5,495*	69,600	11,080	31,517*	172,188

Notes: All figures include re-invested income net of basic-rate tax. M&G Recovery figures show the return to the investor. The Building Society figures are based on the average rate of a Building Society Share Account (Source: Central Statistical Office - Financial Statistics).

An investment in M&G Recovery of £1,000 on 30th June 1987 would have grown to £1,060 by 30th June, 1992. An investment of £40 a month from 30th June, 1987 (£2,400) would have grown to £2,504 by 30th June, 1992 with net income reinvested. *Estimated using current interest rate levels. Past performance is not necessarily a guide to future performance. The price of units and the income from them may go down as well as up. You may get back less than you invested.

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Full name & Title

Address

Postcode

Signature

Date

Liz Dolan looks at investing £50,000 and £100,000

Using lump sums of money to help secure a financial future

THERE are as many solutions to investment problems as there are people who require them. All financial advisers stress that, although an investor's general circumstances are normally the most important factor to consider when constructing an investment portfolio, character of the investors should never be ignored.

No-one should lock away money without careful consideration of current and future needs. Circumstances change and the cash must be accessible to fund such changes. The trick for a good financial adviser is to get the balance just right.

Character assessment is particularly important for people tempted to use a lump sum to start a business of their own. A redundancy cheque, or a substantial inheritance, could be just the opportunity they needed to go it alone. However, running a business requires a very different mentality from being a salaried employee.

□ £50,000
A man in his early 50s is made redundant. His children have left home, and his mortgage is of manageable proportions. He wants to know how best to use his £50,000 redundancy money. Stephen Ingledew, business development manager at Frizzell, the insurance broker, said: "His very first move must be to visit the local Department of Social Security office and claim unemployment benefit. This is available for the first year of unemployment, regardless of how much he has picked up in the way of redundancy money." At this man's age he will have one of three options. He either takes early retirement, finds a job that pays less than the one he has just lost or he gets a job that pays the same, or more, than the previous one.

Realistically, the third is the least likely alternative. However, if he is lucky enough to find



employment at a comparable salary, he can use his redundancy money for capital growth, possibly as a single premium payment into a pension fund.

If, as is more likely, he finds a lower paid job, he can use his pay-off as a means to supplement his income. However, the term "early retirement" is nearly always a euphemism for redundancy nowadays, and can by no means be ruled out at this age.

Using some of the money to repay any outstanding mortgage on the home is not necessarily a good idea. Retaining the tax benefits on amounts below £30,000 is often the preferred option.

Surrendering an endowment policy whose benefits are heavily weighted towards the final bonus would be particularly foolish. Guaranteed income bonds, spread over one, three and five years are worth considering. If interest rates stay at the same level, or even fall, over the next few years, a five-year bond could offer significant benefits.

David Edwards, a director of Henderson Crosthwaite, the stockbroker, said: "If the chap's in his 50s, he's likely to be fairly dependant on income. However, if he has another source of income — if, for instance, his wife is working — he will be able to invest a larger amount for future

growth. We would want, as far as possible, to keep pace with inflation."

In the short term, an average building society yield of 6.5 per cent looks much more attractive than equities. The UK stock market is yielding under 5 per cent at the moment. However, on a historical basis, equities have a much better record of keeping pace with inflation than any other form of investment. It therefore makes more sense to invest the £50,000 into a portfolio of single stocks. Dealing costs on the amount of different shares needed to get a reasonable spread would cancel out a large slice of the profit. Consequently, in this

case, Mr Edwards advises investing the equity-based portion of the portfolio in managed funds. He prefers investment trusts to unit trusts because the bid-offer spread is normally narrower and the costs therefore lower.

□ £100,000

A couple in their 40s have inherited a £100,000 windfall. Their children are at fee-paying schools, and their short-term needs are reasonably well catered for.

Martin Jones, a senior manager in the tax department of Coopers & Lybrand, the accountant, said: "Our general approach these days is getting very boring. Low-risk investments are the name of the game. We generally start from the point of view of tax avoidance. The first thing is to make sure that both husband and wife are making full use of their personal tax allowances. If one or the other is not working, I would advise gifting £35,000 to the non-working partner. The interest earned on that should just about use up the personal allowance, assuming a 10 per cent yield on the cash. Cash is secure, flexible and, at an inflation rate of 4.3 per cent, very attractive."

Both partners should invest as much as they can in tax exempt special savings accounts (Tessas). They can each invest up to £9,000 a piece. The next tranche should then go into personal equity plans. "In virtually every case, the £6,000 maximum per person should be invested in unit trusts. With the best will in the world, you can't really buy a good spread of shares for £6,000. My choice would be something very boring like UK income-tracking trust. It's completely flexible. But even this is relatively high-risk, and should only be used as part of a wider programme."

This particular couple might also consider investing in a single company PEP. This would account for a further £6,000. However, "These are much more risky and people with much less than £100,000 to invest should think twice." He recommends putting the rest of the money into National Savings.

BT investors may forfeit rights

HOLDERS of partly paid British Telecom shares who have yet to pay the second instalment could forfeit their rights to any premium earned on their shares as well as discounts or bonuses. These errant investors should receive a reminder in the post by next week, Sara McConnell writes.

About 91 per cent of the 1.8 million people who still hold shares in the offer had sent in cheques to cover their second instalment by July 2, the deadline set so that the cheques could be cleared by

July 7, according to figures from the Treasury. Another 4 per cent have sent cheques that are being cleared. No cut off date has been set.

Those who forfeit shares will get a refund of their original investment but it will be a maximum of 110p a share and costs of around 10p a share may be deducted by the Treasury for administration.

If the outstanding 5 per cent of the shareholders do not respond to these reminders, they will not stand to lose much in share premiums.

BT's stockmarket performance has not been spectacular since last year's sell off and on the last day of trading before the second call, the partly paid stock was trading at 113p, only 3p more than the 110p of the public offer.

The proportion of shareholders who forfeited their shares in earlier privatisations was tiny. Only 8,000 of 1.8 million shareholders who were sent second call payment notices in National Power and PowerGen, forfeited their shares.



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To: The Marketing Department, Rothschild Asset Management Limited, Freepost KE6938, London EC4B 4RD. Ref: ATT 030L

Title: _____ Initials: _____ Surname: _____

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Sid strikes and Henry bides his time

**Rupert Bruce says the stags have headed
for the hills and flotations flop as weary
investors find better homes for their cash**

JUDGING from the lack of demand for recent share issues, the private investor seems to have gone on strike. Certainly, many private investors have become disillusioned with the stock market, but others realise the need to be discerning in times like these.

When stock markets are falling and economic news is bad, Sid — the investor who became familiar with the stock market through staging privatisation issues for a quick profit — senses that quick profits are not easily made. Add to that an issue price which is not an obvious giveaway and he will keep his cash in the building society. His more financially sophisticated relative Henry, however, is still interested. But he will only invest in a good opportunity.

This summer's series of share issues started to flop when the £1.5 billion flotation of GPA Group, the Irish aircraft leasing company, caught a cold from the American new issue market, which has been sickly for a while. It was pulled at the last minute on June 18 after failing to find a single institutional investor in America and a disappointing response in Britain and Japan.

Since then, the flotation of 3i, the venture capital group, has been postponed, while the offer for sale of Anglian Group, the window manufacturer, The Telegraph, and MFI Furniture Group, were largely left with their City underwriters. On Wednesday

Taunton Cider was the latest victim, where Peter Adams, the chief executive, and Nickie Pearch, the finance director, found the man in the street took up only 15 per cent of the total floated on the market.

The European Smaller Companies Investment Trust attracted £35.5 million, only £500,000 more than the minimum feared by Dresner Bank, its backer, and most of that was in Germany. Only Kenwood Appliances, the kitchen equipment company, was oversubscribed.

While the GPA Group failure was at the hands of institutional investors, the series of disappointing offers for sale are largely the result of lack of private interest. Jeremy Prescott, a director of Samuel Montagu & Co. said: "I do think that there has been a story knocking around of an investors' strike that is self-generating."

The success of the Kenwood float may partly be because it was completed before the others. It was also, with the exception of the European investment trust, the smallest of the issues. But there is a strong contrast between Kenwood, where operating profits have grown from £4.2 million in 1990 to £9.5 million in 1992 and Anglian,

which is in one of the worst hit sectors of the economy. Similarly, many private client brokers judged MFI to be a bad investment because furniture sales do not tend to increase in a recession.

The flop of The Telegraph issue was partly attributed to the unpopularity of press barons after the Maxwell affair. Chris Mustin, a director of Albert E. Sharp, the Birmingham private client broker, said: "I think The Telegraph was expensive and there was another factor there in the wake of the Maxwell affair — the fact that the master company is a company that is in debt and is floating off shares."

But while many brokers report little private interest for the recent new issues, they say that the response to the £3 billion Wellcome pharmaceutical company share issue, which closes to private clients next Tuesday, is more encouraging. A tranche of 20 million shares worth about £180 million has been set aside for private clients.

The issue is unlikely to provide a staggering profit because it is by tender. That means Robert Fleming & Co, the adviser to the issue, will wait to see how many shares investors around the world bid



High hopes that fell flat: Peter Adams (left), and Nickie Pearch of Taunton Cider

for and at what price before deciding on the issue price. But despite this, some investors are tempted. David Culling, head of investment management at Williams de Broe, the broker, who has not touched any of the other issues, is applying for some Wellcome shares on behalf of his discretionary private client accounts.

From comparing the likely price and the prospects for earnings growth over the next few years, he believes that Wellcome offers the best value

among the big international drug stocks. He would be happy to buy the shares at between 820p and 880p.

A spokesman for Allied Provincial, the regional private client broker with a network of 24 offices, said: "Wellcome is slightly different from the other issues. We are seeing patchy demand, there it varies from area to area and office to office. We have seen a lot of demand in the Midlands and in the South."

Given the lack of demand it is surprising that such a large

proportion of these issues have been offered to the public rather than just placed with large institutions. It may be partly because the advisers to the issues were themselves surprised by the lack of demand. But also, there is a London Stock Exchange rule that at least 50 per cent of a new issue exceeding £30 million must be available to the public in an offer for sale. Mr Prescott thinks that perhaps this rule should be changed to allow more of a new issue to be placed with institutions.

Private share ownership is facing a steady decline

PRIVATE share ownership is declining and will continue to do so until the Government makes buying and selling shares as easy as running a savings account, a paper published this week claims (Lindsay Cook writes).

Deeper Share Ownership by Matthew Gaved and Anthony Goodman for the Social Market Foundation says that, although 10 million people hold shares, direct share ownership could disappear altogether if dealing is not made easier.

The 10 million shareholders account for less than 20 per cent of the total value of all shares listed on the London Stock Exchange. Thirty years ago they accounted for 70 per cent.

During the eighties, the decade of privatisation, the value of direct shareholdings in leading companies fell from 26 per cent to 14 per cent.

The paper says that buying shares in privatised industries has not encouraged new shareholders to build more extensive portfolios.

Less than one in five of them had shares in three or more firms. While the number of shares owned directly by the public has doubled over the past decade the number of shares issued by major companies has increased fourfold.

The authors call upon banks, building societies and sharedealing services to use the advent of Taurus, the share registration system, to establish personal shareholding accounts. These should be tax-free like personal equity plans.

Taurus should break the

**'Owning shares
directly could
disappear if
dealing is not
made easier'**

monopoly of company registrars over shareholder services and could open the way to competition in shareholder services.

Information from quoted companies should be improved so that investors can easily find out their objectives, strategies, activities and performance.

The growth of collective investments such as unit trusts, bonds and investment trusts was worrying because it denied investors the right of a voice and the ability to question decisions by attending annual general meetings, the

authors say. They also cannot sell individual shareholdings if they disagree with a company's policy.

When personal equity plans were launched, it was intended that investors should take an active role but plan managers and quoted companies decided this was too expensive and investors who wanted reports were slapped with surcharges.

The unit trust investment in Peps was very limited at the outset because Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor at that time, wanted direct investment in shares to be encouraged.

The proportion of a plan that could be invested through a unit trust has gradually been increased until this year's Budget gave the go-ahead for the full £5,000 annual investment in Peps to be in unit trusts.

The indexed rise for calculating the indexation allowance on assets disposed of in June 1992

Month purchased	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987
January	—	0.686	0.604	0.527	0.447	0.393
February	—	0.679	0.597	0.515	0.442	0.387
March	0.753	0.676	0.592	0.501	0.440	0.385
April	0.719	0.653	0.571	0.470	0.426	0.368
May	0.707	0.646	0.566	0.463	0.424	0.367
June	0.702	0.642	0.562	0.460	0.424	0.367
July	0.693	0.633	0.553	0.459	0.426	0.368
August	0.701	0.628	0.549	0.459	0.424	0.364
September	0.702	0.619	0.546	0.460	0.417	0.360
October	0.693	0.613	0.536	0.457	0.415	0.354
November	0.685	0.607	0.532	0.452	0.403	0.347
December	0.688	0.603	0.533	0.450	0.398	0.348
1988	1989	1990	1991	1992		
January	0.348	0.255	0.166	0.070	0.027	
February	0.343	0.246	0.159	0.064	0.022	
March	0.338	0.240	0.147	0.060	0.019	
April	0.317	0.219	0.114	0.047	0.004	
May	0.312	0.211	0.104	0.043	Nil	
June	0.307	0.207	0.099	0.038		
July	0.306	0.206	0.098	0.041		
August	0.291	0.203	0.087	0.039		
September	0.285	0.195	0.077	0.035		
October	0.272	0.186	0.069	0.031		
November	0.266	0.176	0.072	0.027		
December	0.263	0.173	0.072	0.027		

The 11th month for disposals by individuals on or after April 6, 1985 (April 1, 1985 for companies) is the month in which the allowable expenditure was incurred, or March 1982 where the expenditure was incurred before that month.

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*Source: Hargreaves & Hargreaves. Figures are based on best estimate, not audited. Figures in Foreign & Colonial Investment Trust PLC using gold-weight prices, not income reinvested, up to 1945, and then historical 1.5% nominal interest. Current charges are 0.75% commission and 1.0% (investment) stamp duty (minimum 50p).

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Sara McConnell examines some cross-border banking services

Savings are up — or they could be down

BY LIZ DOLAN

**National Savings wish
taxpayers
many happy returns.**

Adcock, J. Huston, 66: M. Springer, J. Irwin, 1 (Review, tomorrow)

Wall St depresses shares

1992			Price	Net Yr
High	Low	Company	(¢)	div %
67 1/2	54	-de-Engmann	59 1/2	-1 1/4

[illegible]

27	177	Chung	1	1.5	14
28	177	Chung	1	1.5	14
29	177	Chung	1	1.5	14
30	177	Chung	1	1.5	14
31	177	Chung	1	1.5	14
32	177	Chung	1	1.5	14
33	177	Chung	1	1.5	14
34	177	Chung	1	1.5	14
35	177	Chung	1	1.5	14
36	177	Chung	1	1.5	14
37	177	Chung	1	1.5	14
38	177	Chung	1	1.5	14
39	177	Chung	1	1.5	14
40	177	Chung	1	1.5	14
41	177	Chung	1	1.5	14
42	177	Chung	1	1.5	14
43	177	Chung	1	1.5	14
44	177	Chung	1	1.5	14
45	177	Chung	1	1.5	14
46	177	Chung	1	1.5	14
47	177	Chung	1	1.5	14
48	177	Chung	1	1.5	14
49	177	Chung	1	1.5	14
50	177	Chung	1	1.5	14
51	177	Chung	1	1.5	14
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98	177	Chung	1	1.5	14
99	177	Chung	1	1.5	14
100	177	Chung	1	1.5	14

708	10225	Alex & Alex	1183	44	...
709	12328	Alan Ken	2550	-37	...	43	...
66	66	Archer (AJ)	35	...	...	16.8	47
66	126	Brinkman	129	-6	-2	4.7	51
710	780	Brinkman	203	...	...	...	13.7
711	782	Concord Union	443	-10	...	23.6	71
513	23	FAL	23	-1	...	...	...
510	361	Gen Accidents	404	-11	26.7	8.8	...
516	108	G&R	137	-7	7.0	6.6	...
777	329	Hess C E	352	-6	25.8	8.6	11.2
778	148	Hess C	148	-3	8.1	7.3	17.8
779	152	Hess C	152	-8	...	...	...
723	317	Legal & Gen	344	+9	16.8	7.2	...
748	557	Lifery Life	596	-1	...	...	16.2
747	343	Lloyds Abbey	364	-9	17.3	6.3	11.6
758	203	Lloyds Themp	204	-1	...	...	27.3

27	239 TK Tech Inc	24	...	2.7
152	118 TK Smr Cn	134	...	3.7
277	239 Temple Bar	267	-4	130
66	54 Thurnston E	62	-1	0.5
63	47 Thurnston	30	-3	2.3
378	268 Thurnston Cp	325	...	...
		185	...	...

1993 Low Company		Price ¢	Vol %	Ytd %
128	Asplund Corp	42	-1	28
129	Arjo Corp	42	-1	28
130	Arjo Corp	42	-1	28
131	Arjo Corp	42	-1	28
132	Arjo Corp	42	-1	28
133	Arjo Corp	42	-1	28
134	Arjo Corp	42	-1	28
135	Arjo Corp	42	-1	28
136	Arjo Corp	42	-1	28
137	Arjo Corp	42	-1	28
138	Arjo Corp	42	-1	28
139	Arjo Corp	42	-1	28
140	Arjo Corp	42	-1	28
141	Arjo Corp	42	-1	28
142	Arjo Corp	42	-1	28
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145	Arjo Corp	42	-1	28
146	Arjo Corp	42	-1	28
147	Arjo Corp	42	-1	28
148	Arjo Corp	42	-1	28
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196	Arjo Corp	42	-1	28
197	Arjo Corp	42	-1	28
198	Arjo Corp	42	-1	28
199	Arjo Corp	42	-1	28
200	Arjo Corp	42	-1	28

[illegible][illegible][illegible]

149	9	City of New York	10	1	62	0	0
148	10	City of New York	10	1	62	0	0
147	11	City of New York	10	1	62	0	0
146	12	City of New York	10	1	62	0	0
145	13	City of New York	10	1	62	0	0
144	14	City of New York	10	1	62	0	0
143	15	City of New York	10	1	62	0	0
142	16	City of New York	10	1	62	0	0
141	17	City of New York	10	1	62	0	0
140	18	City of New York	10	1	62	0	0
139	19	City of New York	10	1	62	0	0
138	20	City of New York	10	1	62	0	0
137	21	City of New York	10	1	62	0	0
136	22	City of New York	10	1	62	0	0
135	23	City of New York	10	1	62	0	0
134	24	City of New York	10	1	62	0	0
133	25	City of New York	10	1	62	0	0
132	26	City of New York	10	1	62	0	0
131	27	City of New York	10	1	62	0	0
130	28	City of New York	10	1	62	0	0
129	29	City of New York	10	1	62	0	0
128	30	City of New York	10	1	62	0	0
127	31	City of New York	10	1	62	0	0
126	32	City of New York	10	1	62	0	0
125	33	City of New York	10	1	62	0	0
124	34	City of New York	10	1	62	0	0
123	35	City of New York	10	1	62	0	0
122	36	City of New York	10	1	62	0	0
121	37	City of New York	10	1	62	0	0
120	38	City of New York	10	1	62	0	0
119	39	City of New York	10	1	62	0	0
118	40	City of New York	10	1	62	0	0
117	41	City of New York	10	1	62	0	0
116	42	City of New York	10	1	62	0	0
115	43	City of New York	10	1	62	0	0
114	44	City of New York	10	1	62	0	0
113	45	City of New York	10	1	62	0	0
112	46	City of New York	10	1	62	0	0
111	47	City of New York	10	1	62	0	0
110	48	City of New York	10	1	62	0	0
109	49	City of New York	10	1	62	0	0
108	50	City of New York	10	1	62	0	0
107	51	City of New York	10	1	62	0	0
106	52	City of New York	10	1	62	0	0
105	53	City of New York	10	1	62	0	0
104	54	City of New York	10	1	62	0	0
103	55	City of New York	10	1	62	0	0
102	56	City of New York	10	1	62	0	0
101	57	City of New York	10	1	62	0	0
100	58	City of New York	10	1	62	0	0
99	59	City of New York	10	1	62	0	0
98	60	City of New York	10	1	62	0	0
97	61	City of New York	10	1	62	0	0
96	62	City of New York	10	1	62	0	0
95	63	City of New York	10	1	62	0	0
94	64	City of New York	10	1	62	0	0
93							

SHOES, LEATHER				
28	29	30	31	32
40	41	42	43	44
45	46	47	48	49
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425	426	427	428	429
430	4			

162	125	73	Goodrich	100	+	1	87	87	125
163	125	73	Goodrich	100	+	1	87	87	125
164	125	73	Goodrich	100	+	1	87	87	125
165	125	73	Goodrich	100	+	1	87	87	125
166	125	73	Goodrich	100	+	1	87	87	125
167	125	73	Goodrich	100	+	1	87	87	125
168	125	73	Goodrich	100	+	1	87	87	125
169	125	73	Goodrich	100	+	1	87	87	125
170	125	73	Goodrich	100	+	1	87	87	125
171	125	73	Goodrich	100	+	1	87	87	125
172	125	73	Goodrich	100	+	1	87	87	125
173	125	73	Goodrich	100	+	1	87	87	125
174	125	73	Goodrich	100	+	1	87	87	125
175	125	73	Goodrich	100	+	1	87	87	125
176	125	73	Goodrich	100	+	1	87	87	125
177	125	73	Goodrich	100	+	1	87	87	125
178	125	73	Goodrich	100	+	1	87	87	125
179	125	73	Goodrich	100	+	1	87	87	125
180	125	73	Goodrich	100	+	1	87	87	125
181	125	73	Goodrich	100	+	1	87	87	125
182	125	73	Goodrich	100	+	1	87	87	125
183	125	73	Goodrich	100	+	1	87	87	125
184	125	73	Goodrich	100	+	1	87	87	125
185	125	73	Goodrich	100	+	1	87	87	125
186	125	73	Goodrich	100	+	1	87	87	125
187	125	73	Goodrich	100	+	1	87	87	125
188	125	73	Goodrich	100	+	1	87	87	125
189	125	73	Goodrich	100	+	1	87	87	125
190	125	73	Goodrich	100	+	1	87	87	125
191	125	73	Goodrich	100	+	1	87	87	125
192	125	73	Goodrich	100	+	1	87	87	125
193	125	73	Goodrich	100	+	1	87	87	125
194	125	73	Goodrich	100	+	1	87	87	125
195	125	73	Goodrich	100	+	1	87	87	125
196	125	73	Goodrich	100	+	1	87	87	125
197	125	73	Goodrich	100	+	1	87	87	125
198	125	73	Goodrich	100	+	1	87	87	125
199	125	73	Goodrich	100	+	1	87	87	125
200	125	73	Goodrich	100	+	1	87	87	125

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440	200-Aquatic Water	413	-2	74.3	5.2	2.8
445	300-Hydrocarbons	422	-1	10.6	3.2	5.8
450	300-Nutrients	423	-1	10.6	3.2	5.8
415	200-Sewage Treat	420	-2	74.3	5.2	2.8
420	300-Sewage Treat	421	-1	10.6	3.2	5.8
425	300-Sewage Treat	422	-1	10.6	3.2	5.8
430	300-Sewage Treat	423	-1	10.6	3.2	5.8
435	300-Sewage Treat	424	-1	10.6	3.2	5.8
440	300-Sewage Treat	425	-1	10.6	3.2	5.8
445	300-Sewage Treat	426	-1	10.6	3.2	5.8
450	300-Sewage Treat	427	-1	10.6	3.2	5.8
455	300-Sewage Treat	428	-1	10.6	3.2	5.8
460	300-Sewage Treat	429	-1	10.6	3.2	5.8
465	300-Sewage Treat	430	-1	10.6	3.2	5.8
470	300-Sewage Treat	431	-1	10.6	3.2	5.8
475	300-Sewage Treat	432	-1	10.6	3.2	5.8
480	300-Sewage Treat	433	-1	10.6	3.2	5.8
485	300-Sewage Treat	434	-1	10.6	3.2	5.8
490	300-Sewage Treat	435	-1	10.6	3.2	5.8
495	300-Sewage Treat	436	-1	10.6	3.2	5.8
500	300-Sewage Treat	437	-1	10.6	3.2	5.8
505	300-Sewage Treat	438	-1	10.6	3.2	5.8
510	300-Sewage Treat	439	-1	10.6	3.2	5.8
515	300-Sewage Treat	440	-1	10.6	3.2	5.8
520	300-Sewage Treat	441	-1	10.6	3.2	5.8
525	300-Sewage Treat	442	-1	10.6	3.2	5.8
530	300-Sewage Treat	443	-1	10.6	3.2	5.8
535	300-Sewage Treat	444	-1	10.6	3.2	5.8
540	300-Sewage Treat	445	-1	10.6	3.2	5.8
545	300-Sewage Treat	446	-1	10.6	3.2	5.8
550	300-Sewage Treat	447	-1	10.6	3.2	5.8
555	300-Sewage Treat	448	-1	10.6	3.2	5.8
560	300-Sewage Treat	449	-1	10.6	3.2	5.8
565	300-Sewage Treat	450	-1	10.6	3.2	5.8
570	300-Sewage Treat	451	-1	10.6	3.2	5.8
575	300-Sewage Treat	452	-1	10.6	3.2	5.8
580	300-Sewage Treat	453	-1	10.6	3.2	5.8
585	300-Sewage Treat	454	-1	10.6	3.2	5.8
590	300-Sewage Treat	455	-1	10.6	3.2	5.8
595	300-Sewage Treat	456	-1	10.6	3.2	5.8
600	300-Sewage Treat	457	-1	10.6	3.2	5.8
605	300-Sewage Treat	458	-1	10.6	3.2	5.8
610	300-Sewage Treat	459	-1	10.6	3.2	5.8
615	300-Sewage Treat	460	-1	10.6	3.2	5.8
620	300-Sewage Treat	461	-1	10.6	3.2	5.8
625	300-Sewage Treat	462	-1	10.6	3.2	5.8
630	300-Sewage Treat	463	-1	10.6	3.2	5.8
635	300-Sewage Treat	464	-1	10.6	3.2	5.8
640	300-Sewage Treat	465	-1	10.6	3.2	5.8
645	300-Sewage Treat	466	-1	10.6	3.2	5.8
650	300-Sewage Treat	467	-1	10.6	3.2	5.8
655	300-Sewage Treat	468	-1	10.6	3.2	5.8
660	300-Sewage Treat	469	-1	10.6	3.2	5.8
665	300-Sewage Treat	470	-1	10.6	3.2	5.8
670	300-Sewage Treat	471	-1	10.6	3.2	5.8
675	300-Sewage Treat	472	-1	10.6	3.2	5.



**YOUR INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE
BROKING PARTNER C E HEATH**

133 HOUNDSDITCH LONDON EC3A 7AH TELEPHONE: 071 234 4000

SECOND



YOUR INTERNATIONAL BROKING PARTNER

133 HOUNDSDITCH LONDON EC3A 3DF

85	Lee (Amber)	88	-10	5.9	49	44.0
86	Ulfesbach	102	...	5.0	5.2	17.7
87	Lee	81	...	5.1	8.4	17.5
88	Compton Place	5	6%	...	...	...
89	Lee	79	...	3.5	5.9	11.2
90	Unionheart	168	...	13.0	10.3	29.5
91	Compton	29	...	0.3	2.0	16.0
92	Lockett (T)	1	...	1.0	9.5	...
93	200 Low 171	201	-0	4	6.5	...
94	201	84	...	...	...	...
95	Low & Bonar	288	-1	9.5	4.3	15.7
96	MB-Canada	297	-9	8.1	6.8	19.2
97	do-pl	119	-3	7.2	8.1	...
98	St. Hoge	209	...	1.8	8.5	...
99	MS Int	24	...	2.5	14.8	...
100	St. Holdings	34	...	...	...	40.7
101	St. Holdings	26	...	1	6.3	29.3
102	St. Holdings	24	...	1	6.3	29.3

17	23	McKeehan	257	...	5.7	6.9	16.7
18	24	McKeehan	257	...	5.7	6.9	16.7
19	25	McKeehan	257	...	5.7	6.9	16.7
20	26	McKeehan	257	...	5.7	6.9	16.7
21	27	McKeehan	257	...	5.7	6.9	16.7
22	28	McKeehan	257	...	5.7	6.9	16.7
23	29	McKeehan	257	...	5.7	6.9	16.7
24	30	McKeehan	257	...	5.7	6.9	16.7
25	31	McKeehan	257	...	5.7	6.9	16.7
26	32	McKeehan	257	...	5.7	6.9	16.7
27	33	McKeehan	257	...	5.7	6.9	16.7
28	34	McKeehan	257	...	5.7	6.9	16.7
29	35	McKeehan	257	...	5.7	6.9	16.7
30	36	McKeehan	257	...	5.7	6.9	16.7
31	37	McKeehan	257	...	5.7	6.9	16.7
32	38	McKeehan	257	...	5.7	6.9	16.7
33	39	McKeehan	257	...	5.7	6.9	16.7
34	40	McKeehan	257	...	5.7	6.9	16.7
35	41	McKeehan	257	...	5.7	6.9	16.7
36	42	McKeehan	257	...	5.7	6.9	16.7
37	43	McKeehan	257	...	5.7	6.9	16.7
38	44	McKeehan	257	...	5.7	6.9	16.7
39	45	McKeehan	257	...	5.7	6.9	16.7
40	46	McKeehan	257	...	5.7	6.9	16.7
41	47	McKeehan	257	...	5.7	6.9	16.7
42	48	McKeehan	257	...	5.7	6.9	16.7
43	49	McKeehan	257	...	5.7	6.9	16.7
44	50	McKeehan	257	...	5.7	6.9	16.7
45	51	McKeehan	257	...	5.7	6.9	16.7
46	52	McKeehan	257	...	5.7	6.9	16.7
47	53	McKeehan	257	...	5.7	6.9	16.7
48	54	McKeehan	257	...	5.7	6.9	16.7
49	55	McKeehan	257	...	5.7	6.9	16.7
50	56	McKeehan	257	...	5.7	6.9	16.7
51	57	McKeehan	257	...	5.7	6.9	16.7
52	58	McKeehan	257	...	5.7	6.9	16.7
53	59	McKeehan	257	...	5.7	6.9	16.7
54	60	McKeehan	257	...	5.7	6.9	16.7
55	61	McKeehan	257	...	5.7	6.9	16.7
56	62	McKeehan	257	...	5.7	6.9	16.7
57	63	McKeehan	257	...	5.7	6.9	16.7
58	64	McKeehan	257	...	5.7	6.9	16.7
59	65	McKeehan	257	...	5.7	6.9	16.7
60	66	McKeehan	257	...	5.7	6.9	16.7
61	67	McKeehan	257	...	5.7	6.9	16.7
62	68	McKeehan	257	...	5.7	6.9	16.7
63	69	McKeehan	257	...	5.7	6.9	16.7
64	70	McKeehan	257	...	5.7	6.9	16.7
65	71	McKeehan	257	...	5.7	6.9	16.7
66	72	McKeehan	257	...	5.7	6.9	16.7
67	73	McKeehan	257	...	5.7	6.9	16.7
68	74	McKeehan	257	...	5.7	6.9	16.7
69	75	McKeehan	257	...	5.7	6.9	16.7
70	76	McKeehan	257	...	5.7	6.9	16.7
71	77	McKeehan	257	...	5.7	6.9	16.7
72	78	McKeehan	257	...	5.7	6.9	16.7
73	79	McKeehan	257	...	5.7	6.9	16.7
74	80	McKeehan	257	...	5.7	6.9	16.7
75	81	McKeehan	257	...	5.7	6.9	16.7
76	82	McKeehan	257	...	5.7	6.9	16.7
77	83	McKeehan	257	...	5.7	6.9	16.7

10	20 Morris Ashby	110	4	4.7	5.9	-
11	22 Wendep	23	1.5	4.1	-	-
12	60 Nemor-RVA	67	3.1	6.3	9.8	-
13	68 Nemo G	95	2	3.5	5.0	-
14	139	139	2	7.0	7.8	18.6
15	61 Nemo Group	61	-	-	-	-
16	280 N-Swift	363	-	18.0	6.3	-
17	36 Office Exec Mac	36	0.1	0.4	-	-
18	Offr Encl Inc	18	5.2	-	4.8	-
19	136 PCTA	151	7.0	6.2	16.3	-
20	48 Synchron	48	-	-	-	-
21	94 Festind	135	2	2.2	18.7	7.0
22	260 Photo-Me	337	4.2	1.7	18.1	-
23	95 Pildragon	95	3	6.0	8.1	17.9
24	26	26	-	-	-	-
25	29 Pildragon	52	-	-	7.7	4.7

109	Polypipe	114	-1	2.2	18.1
173	Portals	368	-1	13.8	50.12.9
32	Porter Chadborn	33	-2	2.5	10.0
2	Porti Gps	26			
204	Pos	35	-1	6.8	3.1 15.7
6	Prime Peoples	6			
15	Prospect Inds	19	-1	0.4	2.8 7.1
151	Prosperous Alex	129	-2	19.5	15.3 3.6
16	RPS Group	37	-1	2.0	7.5 11.8
10	Rural Mercal	90			
31	Ramton Ory	47	-1	2.0	5.7 4.1
587	Rank Org	992	-15	31.0	7.1 16.3
21	Ramses	69			
581	Rasat Coim	203	-11	18.1	2.3 13.8
35	Rat	57	-1	0.1	3.6 13.1
49	Reed Executive	57			
234	Reliance Seca	294	-1	9.0	4.3

130	Stanton	144		4.0	4.5	16.7
248	Kennedy	228	-3	1.0	2.0	19.0
70	Stanton	50		1.0	2.6	
	Stanton/Kennedy					
1005	Reuter	1164	-21	17.0	1.9	22.2
26	Reuter	31		2.2	9.7	7.7
75	Reardo Hall	75		1.1	10.1	10.5
14	Reardo Hall	14		1.0	1.0	14.1
31	Richardson West	50		2.9	8.5	14.1
140	Roife & Netian	233		6.2	3.5	14.6
106	Ropner	107	+1	8.2	10.3	6.9
107	Ropner	104	-3	8.2	10.6	8.7
23	Ross-Gip	24		1.0	1.0	22.9
224	Rosmont	320	-1	10.0	4.2	10.0
55	Rubicon	105				
70	Russell Gay	82		2.1	3.5	30.9
10	Russell Gay	10				14
899	SEF R	1003	-12			

5	Sale Tinsley	205	..	8.7	5.7	8.5
107	Sanderson Elec	206	..	8.7	5.7	8.5
36	Savage	178	..	3.2	..	..
30	Sch. Grdn U	315	..	..	..	..
150	Scapa	114	-2	5.3	6.1	13.3
198	Schott	203	-10	6.0	3.9	15.5
0	Sci Hortable	0	..	..	..	..
049	Schneider	816	-2	2.3	6.4	37.4
049	Scho-7	377	..	8.3	8.5	20.3
09	Securguard	154	+4	4.5	7.4	8.4
30	Security Serv	324	..	4.4	1.6	28.1
1	Select Appa	4	..	..	..	..
58	Senior Eng	75	..	3.1	5.6	11.2
383	Servo Div	600	..	11.0	2.6	10.2
271	Servo Health	271	..	5.1	2.5	..

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THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

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<p>Argentina peso* 1.9293-1.9323</p> <p>Australian dollar 2.6189-2.6215</p> <p>Bahamian dollar 4.8570-4.7260</p> <p>Brazil cruzeiro 713.04-671.36 1/13</p> <p>Cayman dollar 0.8010-0.7940</p> <p>Colombian peso 15.0500-14.75-82</p> <p>Costa colón 35.10-35.48</p> <p>Hong Kong dollar 15.0500-14.9634</p> <p>India rupee 55.57-57.73</p> <p>Kuwait dinar K.D. 0.5565-0.5625</p> <p>Malaysian ringgit 1.5000-1.4900</p> <p>Mexico peso 6.0000-7.0000</p> <p>New Zealand dollar 7.2547-7.5020</p> <p>Saudi Arabian riyal 1.3139-1.3367</p> <p>Singapore dollar 1.3139-1.3367</p> <p>South African rand 5.3244-5.3524</p> <p>S.A. & Caribbean 7.085-7.170</p> <p>Swiss franc CHF * Liquid Bank</p>		<p>Australia 1.3444-1.3453</p> <p>Austria 10.30-10.32</p> <p>Belgium (Comp.) 30.10-30.25</p> <p>Canada 1.191-1.188</p> <p>Denmark 4.5450-5.5200</p> <p>France 4.6470-4.5320</p> <p>Germany 46.10-46.20</p> <p>Hong Kong 7.7290-7.7300</p> <p>Italy 1.6000-1.6070</p> <p>Japan 111.00-112.00</p> <p>Malaysia 1.5745-1.5430</p> <p>Netherlands 1.6490-1.6200</p> <p>Norway 5.7600-5.7650</p> <p>Portugal 200.70-200.60</p> <p>Singapore 1.3028-1.3098</p> <p>Spain 95.85-95.85</p> <p>Sweden 5.3100-5.3250</p> <p>Switzerland 1.3088-1.3098</p>	
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<p>Base Rate: Clearing Banks 10</p> <p>Discount Market (Overnight) 10 1/2</p> <p>Treasury Bills (104-day): 2 mth 9 1/4; 3 mth 9 1/4. Set: 2 mth 9 1/4; 3 mth 9 1/4.</p>	<p>Low 9 1/4</p>	<p>Week fixed: 9 1/4</p>
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<p>Prime Rate (Lib 30) 10 1/4</p> <p>Sterling Money Rate: 10 1/4</p>	<p>2 mth 9 1/4</p> <p>3 mth 9 1/4</p>	<p>6 mth 9 1/4</p> <p>12 mth 9 1/4</p>
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Interbanks	10*-10*	10*-10*	10*-10*	10*-10*	10*-10*	10*-10*
Overnight open 9% Close 11%						
Local Authority Depos						
Swedish CDR	10*-10*	2 1/4	10*	10*	10*	10
Dollar CDR	5.32-5.27	2 1/4	10*-10*	10*-10*	10*-10*	10*-10
Building Society CDR	10*-10	10*-10	3.46-3.41	3.64-3.51	3.64-3.51	3.64-3.51
			10*-10	10*-10	10*-10	10*-10

TREASURY BILLS: Auction \$22m allotted \$100m; Bids: \$37.43 % received; 47% last week; \$37.65% received; 79% Ayrge rate 19.4960 % last week 19.3294 % Next week 6100m.

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar	5-2 1/2	5-2 1/2	5-2 1/2	5-2 1/2	5-2 1/2
Deutschmark	5-2 1/2	5-2 1/2	5-2 1/2	5-2 1/2	5-2 1/2
French Franc	10-10	10-10	10-10	10-10	10-10
Swiss Franc	5-2 1/2	5-2 1/2	5-2 1/2	5-2 1/2	5-2 1/2
Yen	4-2 1/2	4-2 1/2	4-2 1/2	4-2 1/2	4-2 1/2

Roller Open	\$22.51-22.52	Close	\$22.50-22.50	High	\$22.50-22.50
Low	\$22.51-22.52	Kingman	\$22.50-22.50	\$21.81-22.16	\$21.81-22.16
Sovereigns	Oct 24.50-24.50	24.25-24.43	Nov 24.50-24.50	24.13-24.43	24.13-24.43
Platform	\$22.50 (\$24.25)	Offer	\$22.50 (\$24.25)	Paid	\$22.50 (\$24.25)

Revolution keeps Britain in the frame

Britain will unveil a revolutionary cycling frame at the Barcelona Olympics. Peter Bryan reports on the improvements it offers

A NEW cycle design could make the difference between a medal and an also-ran position for Britain at the Olympic Games in Barcelona, which start next weekend. The carbon-fibre frame has been developed by a Norfolk company, Lotus Engineering, specially for the 4,000 metres track pursuit, in which Chris Boardman, the national champion, will be representing Britain.

Since the one-piece frame was first unveiled at Leicester in May, modifications have resulted in weight reduction and improved aerodynamics.

Lotus is expected to announce a detailed specification of the machine this weekend.

The original design was by Mick Burrows, a former racing cyclist, who is now acting as a consultant on the project.

Wind tunnel tests, involving both a rider and the machine, have indicated that times for the 4,000 metres pursuit could be up to ten seconds faster than those

achieved on a conventional frame.

Apart from the distinctive shape, the design uses only a monoblade front and rear instead of standard forks.

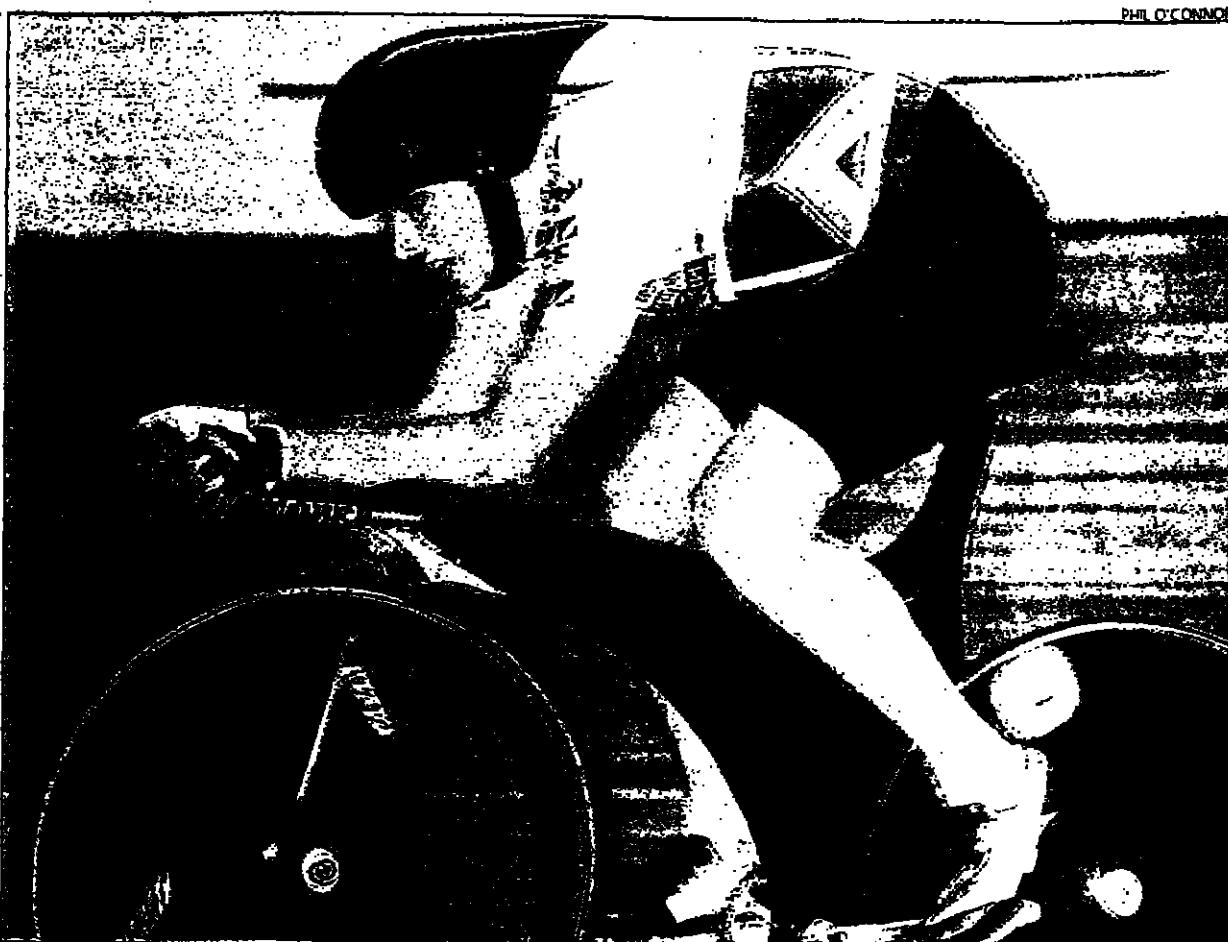
Boardman, who leaves for Barcelona on Monday, had secret trials abroad on a mark two development of the machine. He rode over the full Olympic distance but his time is being kept confidential.

British Cycling Federation (BCF) officials are confident that the monocoque machine will provide a challenge to the world champion, Jens Lehmann, of Germany, in Barcelona.

Boardman was fifth fastest qualifier in the 1991 world championships in Stuttgart, with a time of 4min 31.4sec compared to Lehmann's winning 4min 22.1sec.

Lotus has made two machines for the BCF and a company spokesman said yesterday that he expected the association to continue after the Olympics.

Tour de France, page 34



Lean and mean: Bryan Steele tries out the carbon-fibre frame that could lead to an Olympic medal for Britain

All clean athletes must support stricter testing

There is a growing concern among the world's leading athletes regarding the ever decreasing image of our sport due to the use of performance-enhancing drugs. With the Olympic Games only a week away, one cannot avoid the media attention given to this issue, and as more athletes are being caught, the rumours begin to circulate, causing cynicism and mistrust.

I used to feel frustrated by public comment on this subject. Now I feel sadness as well because the sport is suffering from a problem that, if not dealt with properly, will result in the next generation believing that the only way to achieve athletic success is by artificial means. I often wonder what goes on in the mind of a cheating athlete: morality obviously plays no part in his or her thought process and sporting ethics can be ruled out altogether.

With the use of random drug testing in and out of season, the chance of being caught has increased and thus the guilty athlete must live in constant fear of detection.

Surely, if this were the case, then the athlete's fretful state of mind could hardly be described as being conducive to performing well, which leads one to deduce that the athlete is either prepared to take a chance and risk detection or, for whatever reason, is safe in the knowledge that detection will not or cannot take place.

If the latter were to be true, then the sport is fighting a losing battle, since the chemists and those in power will always provide shelter for the unscrupulous competitor.

I still believe that the majority of athletes taking part in the Olympic Games are natural and clean. As is usually the case in such situations, it is the minority that will tarnish the reputation of others who constantly have to live with feeling guilty by association.

In the end the impetus to clean up the sport has to come from the athlete himself who, if clean, should be prepared to forgo certain rights of privacy and agree to even stricter testing procedures, including the analysis of blood instead of urine. All this costs money but I am sure that there is enough in the coffers of the

A week before the Olympic Games start, Roger Black, the British 400m medal hope, expresses the athletes' concern about the stigma created by drug cheats

International Amateur Athletic Federation to cover such a testing system if the end result is important enough.

The public often seems concerned, but it was ironic that the athlete who received the most applause at a meeting in Nice last week was a certain Ben Johnson, who is back on the athletics circuit but is only half the man he used to be.

It was in Nice that I ran my last 400 metres race before the Olympics. It is always encouraging to win, which I managed to do, although none of my rivals in Barcelona were in the race. My time of 45.15sec was satisfactory but nothing special and significantly slower than the top three Americans, who will start as favourites for the medals in Barcelona.

It has been a mixed season to date: in May I appeared to be on course for a series of fast times but I have recently reached a plateau from which I will need to improve if I am to return successful.

Each athlete will prepare for the Games differently over the next few days. I will be joining Kriss Akabusi, John Regis and Marcus Adam in Monaco, where we will start our fine tuning under the watchful eyes of our coaches, Mike Whittingham and Mike Macfarlane.

The weather in Monaco will be similar to that in Barcelona, the track is first-class and we should be able to prepare privately in a relaxed atmosphere. Unfortunately, we will have to miss the opening ceremony in Barcelona, since it is more important that we prepare properly for the task ahead on the track, rather than participate in the festivities of it.

Some may object to such a decision but I am sure that the public would rather see us performing to the best of our abilities on the track, which will only happen if our preparation is right.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Reilly puts loyalty first for finale

FROM A CORRESPONDENT IN AUCKLAND

LOYALTY has always been a quality that the Great Britain coach, Malcolm Reilly, has valued in his players and he has shown the same loyalty to his side despite the surprise defeat in the first international against New Zealand last Sunday.

Reilly has made only one change to his starting side for the second international here tomorrow and even that was enforced, with Kevin Skeggs ruled out by asthma and replaced by Karl Harrison. The coach has given his players a vote of confidence.

"Good players don't become bad ones overnight," he said. "What we lacked at Palmerston North was urgency and enthusiasm and we can improve on our performance there a tremendous amount. Our defence can certainly improve and our offence has scarcely been as bad as last time."

There are other changes in the squad but they come on the substitutes' bench, with Derek Fox, Karl Fairbank and Michael Jackson all earning well-merited promotion after producing outstanding form for the midweek side. Joe Lyon and Paul Hulse make way, with Harrison moving from the bench to the XIII.

Fox is still in doubt, however, with a leg injury sustained during the victory against Canterbury on Wednesday. A decision on his fitness will be left until the last minute.

Fairbank and Jackson will add pace and incisiveness to the forward play, with Fairbank's flipped passes an increasingly rare skill in the British game. John Devereux could prove, in the last game of the tour, why he was rated the best threequarter in Britain last season.

The tour has been long and arduous but Reilly and his players are determined that the memory of a fine series against Australia should not be erased by two defeats in New Zealand.

GREAT BRITAIN: G Steadman (Castleford), P Eastwood (Hull), D Powell (Sheff), G Connolly (R. Hudders), C. Smith (Wigan), G Sedgwick (Leeds), S Edwards (Wigan), K Harrison (Hull), L Jackson (Hull), A Platt (Wigan), O Bates (Wigan), W. McHenry (Wigan), P. Clarke (Wigan), S. Fox (Leeds), J. Devereux (Hull), K. Fairbank (Sheff).

RUGBY UNION: TOURNAMENT SURPLUS EXCEEDS PESSIMISTIC ESTIMATES

World Cup profit put at £5.5m over and above gate receipts

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

THE World Cup, played in Britain, Ireland and France last autumn, made a profit of £5.5 million, the organisers announced yesterday. However, that figure does not take account of the surplus gate receipts which accrued to the five host unions.

Predictions of the likely tournament profits have hunched alarmingly since the first inflated suggestions, nearly two years before the event, suggested a turnover of about £35 million. But the provisional figures show a turnover of £20 million. The expenses amounted to £14.5 million — £7.3 million spent in the organisation of the tournament, £6.7 million on

the commercial side and £500,000 on corporate hospitality.

As recently as May, Marcel Martin, the chairman of Rugby World Cup (RWC) Limited's commercial arm, suggested that the surplus could be as low as £3 million, so that the figure announced by Russ Thomas, the RWC chairman, in Wellington is a considerable improvement. Thomas emphasised that the overall financial success of the tournament, which had no government or public funding, should take into account the surplus gate money retained by the host unions.

In the case of England, for example, gate receipts were

just over £3 million for the three pool matches played by England, their final against the eventual winners, Australia, and the pool matches at Leicester, Gloucester and Otley.

After deduction of expenses the RFU was left with a surplus of £1,990,582, although that figure was subject to depreciation and tax. The Welsh RU, with gate receipts shared up by the Wales v Australia and New Zealand v Scotland matches at Cardiff Arms Park, returned a surplus of just over £1 million.

"The five host unions will retain the excess of gate receipts over the costs which they incurred in respect of the pool

and knockout matches for which they were responsible," Thomas said. "We do not yet know these figures. Once they are available and our own accounts have been finalised, we shall be able to consolidate both sets of figures and quantify the full financial return of the tournament."

The profits will go towards three projects: next April's RWC sevens at Murrayfield, the 1995 tournament in South Africa, for which qualifying rounds may begin this autumn, and the development of rugby worldwide for which a sum will be held by the International Rugby Settlement, the trust established in the Isle of Man.

Finalists out to improve recent form

Rovigo, Italy: New Zealand, the champions, and France know that they have to raise their level of performance in the final of the Student World Cup here tomorrow, after flawed performances in their semi-finals (Chris Thau writes).

The New Zealand coach, Jack Hobbs, said: "We participated a little bit against Argentina, and we went away from our playing pattern for long periods." An 18-hour journey from Sardinia gave them no time to practice on Thursday.

France played their semi-final a day earlier, and had a shorter journey. Their captain, Serge Simon, said: "In typical French fashion, we were distracted by the prospect of a final against New Zealand. We nearly lost to Italy."

New Zealand shake up pack

Brisbane: The All Blacks have brought Zissan Brooke and Kevin Schuler into their pack for the second international here tomorrow against an Australia side that has won nine successive games, including the thrilling 16-15 success in the opening game of the three-match series in Sydney.

New Zealand, who have held the Bledisloe Cup since 1987, have trained in private since arriving in Brisbane from a midweek match in Cairns.

Brooke's superb performance in the victory over Queensland last Sunday has

earned him a Test return at No. 8 while Schuler wins his first cap, replacing flanker Michael Jones who refuses to play on Sundays because of religious beliefs.

The reshuffled back row is still not finalised, however. Aaron Pene is bracketed as blind-side flanker with Jamie Joseph, who is struggling with a hamstring injury. The Canterbury flanker Andy Earl has joined the party as cover.

New Zealand, the last team to beat Australia nearly a year ago, have history on their side. They have never lost a Bledisloe Cup match at the

Ballymore ground and are unbeaten against the Wallabies in Brisbane since 1929.

Australia, with the World Cup full back, Marty Roeback, in the side after recovering from a gashed lip, have a slight doubt over Sam Scott-Young, outstanding in Sydney, who reopened a deep head wound in training. (Agencies)

AUSTRALIA: M. Roeback, P. Carozzi, J. Lima, T. Horan, D. Cammies, M. Lynagh, N. Farr-Jones (captain), S. Scott-Young, D. Wilson, T. Coker, J. Eales, R. McColl, E. McKenzie, P. Kearns, T. Daly. NEW ZEALAND: J. Tait, J. Kriwan, F. Bunce, W. Little, V. Tugumele, G. Fox, A. Seachan, Z. Brooke, K. Schuler, A. Pene (or J. Joseph), R. Brooke, I. Jones, O. Brown, S. Fitzpatrick (captain), R. Lee.

POLO

Ellerston teams slip in struggle

By JOHN WATSON

THE finals of the British Open championships, at Cowdroy Park, Sussex, over the weekend, came at the end of three weeks of the most determined struggles fought out at six clubs among 18 quartets, all aggregating team handicaps of 21-22. These have been competing in three leagues of six teams.

The general favourites throughout were Ellerston, White, the Kerry Packer team, who won the season's second high-goal prize, the Queen's Cup, and Ellerston Black. This was largely because they were mounted from a stronger

stable of ponies than teams of equal player potential. Yet neither found places in the finals.

At the end of the tournament's league phase, Black Bears, Santa Fe, Ellerston Black and the championship Cup holders, Tramontana, who are put together by Anthony Emburicos, came out top.

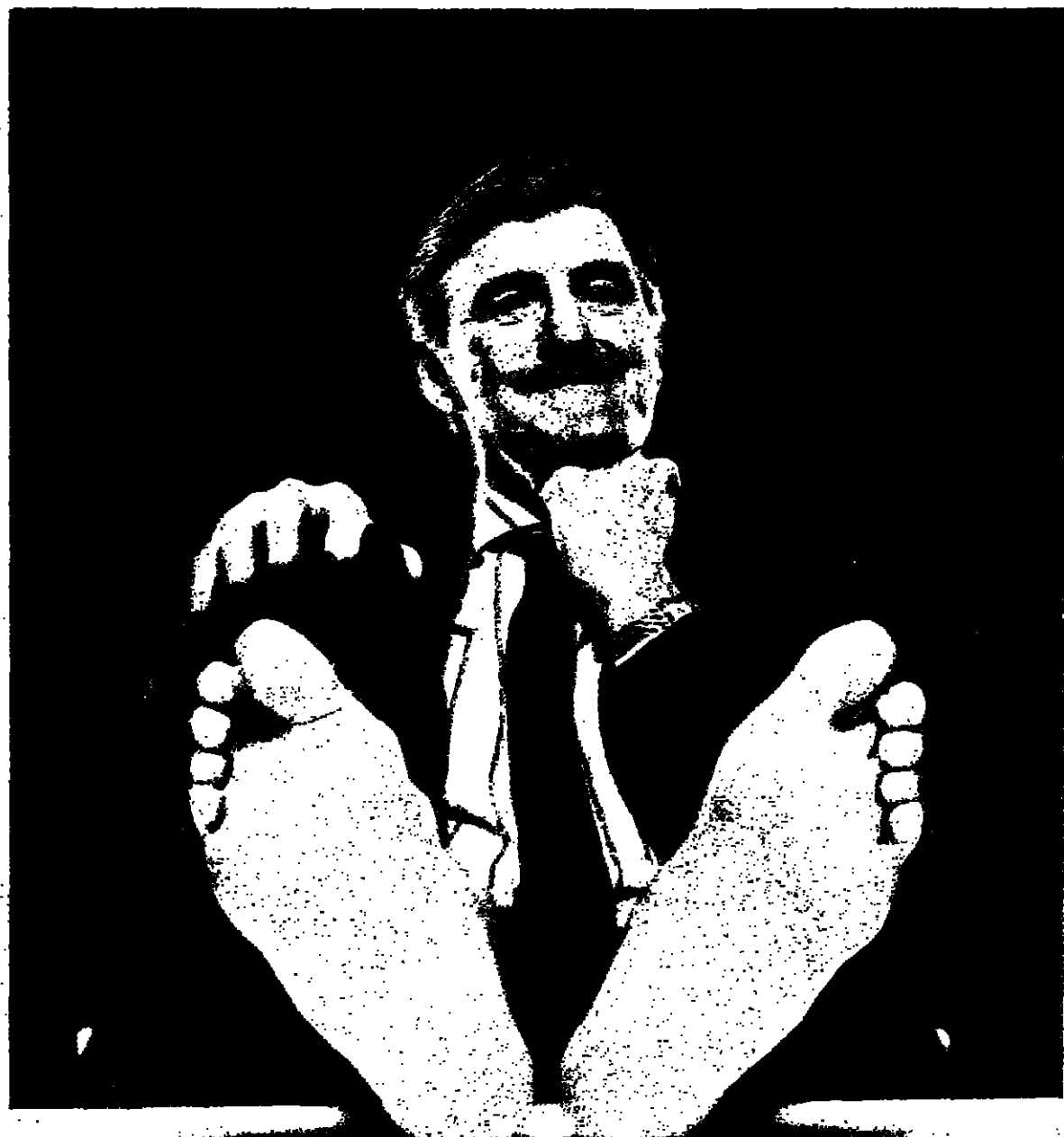
Following last Thursday's semi-finals, the Black Bears and Santa Fe emerged as the Gold Cup finalists. They will meet on the Lawns ground at Cowdroy Park tomorrow afternoon.

Gold Cup
BLACK BEARS: 1. J. Schwarzenbach (1), 2. S. Martin (7); 3. P. Martin (10); Back: M. Brown (4).
SANTA FE: 1. T. Skelton (3); 2. C. Forghy (8); 3. M. Hagg (10); Back: W. Bond Elliott (1).

Ashton Cup
G. B. BROOKS: 1. A. Buchanan (3); 2. A. G. B. (3); 3. O. Stewart (8); Back: J. Daniels (2).
FENDELL: 1. A. Hine (3); 2. I. Hagg (7); 3. E. Hagg (10); Back: P. Scott (1).

Jack Gannon Trophy
HOLDON: 1. W. Lucas (3); 2. R. Matthews (9); 3. J. Horwood (8); Back: J. Lucas (3).
ROYAL PANTING: 1. A. Brodie (3); 2. G. Coad (7); 3. E. Tait (10); Back: M. Fontana (2).

Tatham Cup
COWDROY PARK: 1. C. Pearson (2); 2. A. Kent (7); 3. L. C. Benstead (8); Back: P. Williams (6).
KENNEL STABLES: 1. E. Hobden (1); 2. P. Hagg (10); 3. G. Donoghue (8); Back: A. Killy (2).



Mycil soothes the most annoying irritations.



Stops Athlete's Foot in its tracks.



CYCLING

Roche uses the Alps to make up ground

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

St Gervais, France: Stephen Roche gained more than two minutes on the favourite, Miguel Indurain, when the Tour de France embarked on its first day in the Alps yesterday.

The Irishman's third place in the 267km twelfth stage from Dole, the longest in this year's race, enabled him to finish 2min 15sec in front of the peloton, including Indurain and the overall leader, Pascal Lino, the Frenchman.

Roche came 39 seconds behind Rolf Jaermann of Switzerland, who won the stage from the Spaniard, Pedro Delgado, the 1988 champion.

Roche and Delgado had broken away from the bunch on the main climb of the day, the Mont Salève overlooking Geneva, the steepest pass in this year's race. At one point they had opened a lead of well over four minutes, which would have enabled the Irishman to take over the leader's yellow jersey.

Lino retained the yellow jersey with Indurain second

and Roche third, two minutes behind the Frenchman but only 33 seconds behind the Spaniard.

Roche has been plagued by injuries since his Tour win in 1987 and is still suffering back problems.

Greg LeMond, three times the champion, is fifth, still 4min 27sec behind.

However, the American again flirted with trouble. He dropped more than a minute behind on the second of the climbs and had to rush on the descent to catch up with the main pack.

Another two days in the Alps lie ahead. Today the stage goes to Sestriere, in Italy, with five heavy climbs. Tomorrow's stage includes the difficult climb to l'Alpe d'Huez, with three mountains rated most difficult by the organisers.

If Indurain comes out of the mountain section close to the top, he expects to make up the difference in the final time trial on July 24, two days before the end of the Tour.

Charly Mottet, the popular French rider, has dropped out of the race with liver trouble. Mottet, who came fourth last year, stopped a quarter of the way through the stage. He was lying in 81st place, about 40 minutes behind Lino.

Other placings: 25, Milla; 22nd, 37, Kelly; 18, 37, 55, 57, 61, 66, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100.

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FILM



Adventurous: Catherine Deneuve in *Belle de Jour*

BATMAN RETURNS (12): Quirky but ho-hum sequel, best when the spotlight falls on Michelle Pfeiffer's electrifying Catwoman. With Michael Keaton, Danny DeVito, director, Tim Burton. Barbican (071-636 8891) Camden Parkway (071-267 7034) Empire (071-497 9999) MGM Bakewell Street (071-495 9772) MGM Fulham Road (071-370 2636) MGM Oxford Street (071-636 0310) MGM Trocadero (071-434 0031) Notting Hill Coronet (071-727 6705) Screen on the Green (071-226 3520) UCI Whiteleys (071-792 3332).

BELLE DE JOUR (18): Bunuel's 1967 classic about the adventurous life of a bourgeois wife (Catherine Deneuve). Cool and compelling in a sparkling new print. Jean Sorel, Michel Piccoli. Everyman (071-436 1525) MGM Swiss Centre (071-439 4470).

THE BEST INTENTIONS (12): Ingmar Bergman's fascinating tale of his parents' turbulent courtship and marriage. Dull direction by Bille August; excellent performances (Therese August, Samuel Frøler). Gate (071-727 4043) Lumière (071-836 0691).

DAKOTA ROAD (18): Sexual frustration in the Norfolk fens. Good landscapes, but too much silly rural angst. Written and directed by playwright Nick Ward. With Alan Howard, Charlotte Chanton. National Film Theatre (071-928 3232).

HOWARDS END (PG): Obscure version of E.M. Forster's novel about two collaring families with different ideals. With Anthony Hopkins, Emma Thompson, Helena Bonham-Carter. Director, James Ivory. Curzon Mayfair (071-465 2835) Curzon West End (071-439 4805).

THE LONG DAY CLOSES (12): Terence Davies' powerful evocation of childhood's lost paradise. With Leigh McCormack, Marjorie Yates, and a wonderful aural collage of Philip Britten. Curzon Phoenix (071-240 5681) Screen on Baker Street (071-955 2772).

THE LOVER (18): Jean-Jacques Annaud's over-the-top, raucous epic, adaptation of Marguerite Yourcenar's autobiographical novel. Accurate and exciting.

discovery of sex and love in Twentieth century Indo-China. MGM Haymarket (071-839 2636) MGM Shaftesbury Avenue (071-836 6279/79 7025) MGM Trocadero (071-434 0031) UCI Whiteleys (071-792 3332).

PEPE, LUCI, BOM...: Outrageous adventures of three Madrid women. Amusing if dishevelled jape from Pedro Almodovar, completed in 1980. With Carmen Maura. Metro (071-437 0571).

THE PLAYBOYS (12): Love and jealousy in an Irish village in 1957. Strong performances (Albert Finney, Robin Wright, Aidan Quinn), but too much blamey. Director, Gilles Mackinnon. MGM Chelsea (071-352 5096) MGM Haymarket (071-839 2636) Odeon Kensington (0426 914666).

THE PLAYER (15): Dazzling satire on Hollywood, directed by Robert Altman from Michael Tollin's novel. Tim Robbins as the studio executive who kills a writer, plus cameo and walk-ons galore. MGM Chelsea (071-352 5096) Odeon Kensington (0426 914666) Leicester Square (0426 915581) Screen on the Hill (071-435 3366) UCI Whiteleys (071-792 3332).

THE RAPTURE (18): Disaffected woman (Mimi Rogers, excellent) becomes a nun. Provocative exploration of spiritual malaise, written and directed by Michael Toller. MGM Panton Street (071-930 0631) MGM Tottenham Court Road (071-636 6148).

VAN GOGH (12): Maurice Pialat's masterly, non-nonsense portrait of the painter's last months. Fine performance from Renée (071-837 8402).

THEATRE

LONDON: COLUMBUS: Subtitled *And the Discovery of Japan*, this is Richard Nelson's contribution to the 1492 affair. Jonathan Hyde plays Christopher. Directed by John Caird (see Evening Out).

Barbican, Silk Street, EC2 (071-638 8891). Previews Mon, Tues, 7.15pm, opens Wed, 7pm; then in repertoire.

DEATH AND THE MAIDEN: Ariel Dorfman's scorching psychological drama. Geraldine James, Michael Byrne and Paul Freeman. Duke of York's, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (071-836 5121). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Thurs, 3pm, Sat, 4pm.

GRAND HOTEL: Musical barley sugar. Berlin in the Twenties. Sentimental, American, entertaining. Dominion, Tottenham Court Road, W1 (071-580 9562). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Thurs, Sat, 2.30pm.

THE MASTER AND MARGARITA: Crisp performances and scenery, some have named this production of Bulgakov's cult novel a transfer from Hamlet. The Devil causes

mayhem on a visit to Moscow. Almeida, Almeida Street, N1 (071-359 4404). Previews on Thurs, 8pm; opens July 28.

A MIDSUMMER NIGHTS DREAM: Acted in a pool of mud. Robert Lepage's production is long and murky but irradiated with magical images. National (Olivier), South Bank, SE1 (071-928 2252). Wed-next Sat, 7.15pm, mat next Sat, 2pm.

MURDER BY MISADVENTURE: Gerald Harper and William Gaunt play crime writers who fall out and pit their wits against each other. run-of-the-mill thriller. Vaudeville, Strand, WC2 (071-836 9987). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Thurs, 2.30pm, Sat, 5.30pm.

NO REMISSION: Pip Donaghy in Mobil prize-winning play by Rod Williams. Three lifters thrown together during a prison riot. Directed by Derek West. Lyric Studio, King Street, W6 (081-741 8701). Previews Tues, Wed, 8pm; opens Thurs, 7pm; then Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat Sat, 4.30pm.

PHILADELPHIA HERE I COME! Affectionate comedy of an Irish emigrant and his carping alter ego. Excellent revival of Brian Friel's first success. Wyndham's, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (071-867 1116). Previews from Tues, 8pm; opens July 28, 7pm.

PHOENIX: Berlin 1989 is the setting for Ron MacGregor's second play: memories, euphonia and jazz. Souths, Shepherd's Bush Green, W12 (081-743 3388). Previews Tues, Wed, Thurs, 8pm; opens Fri, 7pm; then Mon-Sat, 8pm.

THE RISE AND FALL OF LITTLE VOICE: Terrific performance by Alison Steadman as the raucous slattern in Jim Carver's play about dreams, shyness and horrible mothers. National (Cottesloe), South Bank, SE1 (071-928 2252). Mon-Wed, 7.30pm, mat Tues, 2.30pm.

SIX DEGREES OF SEPARATION: Stockard Channing recreates her role as the rich New Yorker transfigured by a black cat artist in John Guare's fine play on the theme of human interdependence. Royal Court, Sloane Square, SW1 (071-730 1745). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Thurs, 3pm, Sat, 4pm.

Hoping: Jonathan Hyde in *Columbus at the Barbican*

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SOMEONE WHO'LL WATCH OVER ME: Excellent playing by Alec McCowen. Hugh Quarshie and Stephen Rea as Beirut hostages in Frank McGuinness's new play. Hampstead, Swiss Cottage Centre, NW3 (071-722 9301). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat Sat, 4pm.

THE SOUND OF MUSIC: Nazis, squeaky-clean tots and drops of golden sun: a sweet fantasy from the real world. With Liz Robertson and Christopher Cazenove. Sadler's Wells, Rosebery Avenue, EC1 (071-278 8916). Tues-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Tues, Thurs, Sat, 2.30pm.

THE TENTH LONDON INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF STREET ENTERTAINERS: Open air jugglers, minstrels, theatre troupes, acrobats and downs will be trying extra hard this weekend, not just to entertain you, but to catch the eye of roaming judges who will be awarding prizes for the best acts. Competition heats take place tomorrow in Golden Square, W1.

A WOMAN OF NO IMPORTANCE: Philip Prowse's triumphant RSC production. John Carlisle plays a callous aristocrat in Wilde's social melodrama laid with wit. Theatre Royal, Haymarket, SW1 (071-930 8800). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Wed, Sat, 2.30pm.

REGIONAL: BAGNOR: "Nobody thought of it but me!" is the catchphrase of Denys Machin, hero of Arnold Bennett's *The Card*, set to music by Tony Hatch with Peter Duncan as the enterprising hero. Paul Koryson directs. Watlington Theatre, Bagnor, near Newbury (0635 46044). Opens Thurs, 7.30pm; then Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats most Thurs and Sats, 2.30pm. Gala performances July 25, Sept 5, 6.30pm.

LEEDS: Michael Cashman plays the angry-ideal hero in the regional premiere of *Beckett's* social disaster comedy, *Kvetch*. Courtyard Theatre, West Yorkshire Playhouse (0532 442111). Previews Thurs, Fri, 7.45pm; opens Thurs, 7.45pm; then Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; mats Aug 1 and 15, 4pm.

ROMEO AND JULIET: Kenneth MacMillan's full-bodied staging of Shakespeare returns to the Royal Opera House for a run of performances that feature the debut of Irak Mukhammedov as Romeo (Tues). The former Bolshoi star will be dancing with Viviana Durante as Juliet; theirs is one of the most successful partnerships in the Royal Ballet. On Thursday, the French team of Sylvie Guillem and Laurent Hilaire perform the leading roles. Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London WC2 (071-240 1056). Tues, Wed, Thurs, 7.30pm, next Sat, 2.30pm and 7.30pm.

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John Tavener: the composer's new work is a highlight at the BBC Proms (see Music)

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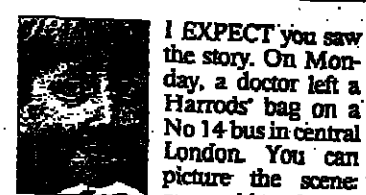
ROMEO AND JULIET: Kenneth MacMillan's full-bodied staging of Shakespeare returns to the Royal Opera House for

SATURDAY JULY 18 1992

ENTERTAINMENT

Remove the lid and stand back

Lynne Truss, reviewing *Pandora's Box*, determines that the fallibility of science is one of the great betrayals of our times



I EXPECT you saw the story. On Monday, a doctor left a Harrods bag on a No 14 bus in central London. You can picture the scene: a man with a lot on his mind jumps up suddenly, rings the bell, and alights at South Kensington. If he forgets all about the packed lunch on the seat beside him, it is something we have all done, and perhaps he can buy a banana later on. But alas, it is not a packed lunch, it is a urine sample contaminated with leprosy. Buying a banana will not help. While the doctor contacts the police, the urine sample innocently continues its journey unaccompanied, trundling and lurching towards Hyde Park Corner en route for Hornsey Rise.

The best thing about the report on Tuesday morning was the information that the Harrods bag "was intended to avoid causing alarm". Such cunning. It makes you think of a bald-headed cartoon scientist in a lab coat attempting to board a bus carrying two enormous paint tins labelled "Disease" and "Famine", and being rebuffed by a conductor wearing red lipstick. "You!" she says. "Off! There must be regulations, after all. I remember a very stern conductor telling me years ago that technically I was not allowed to bring fresh flowers on board 'because someone might slip on a petal'. With hindsight, this suddenly seems terribly unfair."

I feel I know this Harrods-bag trick: it links up with the absurd idea that "what you don't know can't hurt you", which is what the public is frequently told by politicians and scientists. "Trust us," the scientists say, "you really don't need to know what we've got in this Harrods bag." So we say, "All right, but just promise you won't leave it on a bus, or something." And the scientist says: "What do you mean, bus? Buses don't come into it. Unless... er... Oh blimey, I remember it was on the seat next to me, but after that it's all a complete blank."

The fallibility of science is one of the great betrayals of our times, which was why BBC2's *Pandora's Box* series, which finished on Thursday, made such compelling

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and brilliant television. These six "Tables" took examples of what happens when science and politics believe in one another, and create a great tide of optimism which carries along everybody else and won't admit failure. Huxley Engineers can electrify the Soviet Union and create the perfect conditions for communism! Chemists can wipe out all the nasty bugs with DDT! Mathematicians can calculate America's chances in an atomic war, and save the world from nuclear destruction! Physicists can harness atomic energy and guarantee 100 per cent safety! Technicians can bring overnight industrial development to third world countries! And economists can — er, well, nobody ever believed in that old chestnut, surely?

These serious but entertaining films never allowed us to forget how propaganda for such wonders of science can attain a life of its own, leaving the original scientists often far behind. "Goodbye Mrs Ant!" the jaunty newsreel says, and we witness the cautionary tale of Mommy and Daddy and little Jimmy retreating in tears from a family picnic ruined by bugs. How we feel their frustration: how we welcome the miracle of DDT. Man can control nature, and all his problems are over. Midwestern farmers virtually worshipped the crop-sprayer. God's own bug-gun in the sky

seemed to have been sent to release them from lives of drudgery. And even after the intellectuals and environmentalists "crawled out of the woodwork" (interesting choice of image) and got it banned, they still cling fast to the faith.

The quasi-religious language is appropriate: while Adam Curtis's films were too sophisticated to equate "scientific miracle" with religion, the antics of the believers demonstrated time and again the way faith hijacked reason. In one thrilling interview scene, a pro-DDT veteran manifested his faith by emptying some DDT powder on to the palm of his hand (he had an old box of the stuff, the way the rest of us have Quaker Oats) and dramatically licking it off, to prove conclusively its harmlessness to humans. If he had added, "No flies on me!", it couldn't have been more of a surprise.

Why was the series called *Pandora's Box*? Partly for the shock value of paradox, I suspect, since the ills that flew out of the mythological box were the sorts of bugs and diseases that modern science supposedly addresses and destroys. But "remove lid and stand back" certainly suited the energetic style of the programmes, too: the stories were ripe to bursting with amazing interviews, clever clips from movies and cartoons, ironic soundtrack, even jokes. I kept thinking of the old Mickey Spillane film *Kiss Me Deadly*, with its teasing no-don't-open-it radioactive lead box, and



Ooops: the ills that flew out of BBC2's mythological box were the sorts of bugs and diseases that science supposedly addresses and destroys

wondering whether to encase the television set in lead, too, for fear the house would suddenly catch fire and go "va-va-voom".

My only quibble with the *Pandora* analogy (aside from the tedious implicit blame on womankind in the original myth) is with the tiny matter of Hope — which was fam-

ously trapped by Pandora when she shouted the Greek equivalent of "Yikes!" and dropped the lid too late. It is hard to feel optimistic about the role of science when the architect of a nuclear power station, who has every reason to say, "Yes, we were wrong", can only manage, "We noticed that our theoretical

calculations did not have a strong correlation with reality". Science is supposed to deal in objective proofs, but when a naked candle-flame accidentally started an completely unforeseen catastrophe in a power station, the scientists evidently could not see precisely what it proved.

The paradox of the whole sad story of *Pandora's Box* is that politics exploits science for models of control ("See, with the help of scientific experts, we can regulate the economy, the people, the energy, even the bugs"), yet knowledge plus power inevitably gets out of hand and turns dangerous and absurd. In the Soviet Union, the "Plan" of rational control entailed the formation of a whole tier of bureaucracy projecting consumer demand in shoe-styles and tooth-brush colours. Too bad there was nothing in the shops.

The series ended with a clip from a rather wooden public information film about nuclear energy, in which Fred McMurray explained some history of science to his son. He switches off a projector and turns on a light, and then, un-

clamping his pipe from his teeth, says: "Well, George, does that answer your question?" And George stands amazed and says: "Sure does. It's given me a whole new perspective." I know how he felt. Exposure to this real-life Doctor Strangelove stuff makes you look at the world in quite a different way.

Reading about miscarriage-of-justice scandals, you think you understand why the forensic evidence of the explosives tests was trusted as infallible. You look at Michael Jackson's latest plastic surgery and feel an overwhelming fear and pity (although, perhaps, you would anyway). You learn from *Antenna* the exciting news that time-travel is now "not theoretically impossible" and find yourself thinking rebellious and yobbish thoughts such as, "Oh yeah, says who?"

And finally, you hear the extraordinary story of a leprosy urine sample left behind on a London bus. And instead of jumping about in panic you just roll your eyes, purse your lips and think, "How flipping typical."

Masterchef (tomorrow, BBC1, 5.50pm)

Amazing that this series should make such compulsive viewing, when the viewers cannot smell or taste the food. One's tongue lolls helplessly while celebrity guests narrow their eyes over a forkful of designer fishcake, and say tantalising things such as, "Very bold, for a fishcake" and "Not at all what I expected".

Still, the judging is not the only interesting part of the programme, even when, as tomorrow, they are selecting the overall "Masterchef" of the series. In fact, the most exciting bits are the cleverly edited glimpses of the chefs at work in their little spot-lit

kitchens — whisking, shredding, basting, blowing

on spoonfuls of sauce, and looking serious and hot. And how do they resist the urge to shout, "Keep the noise down, Grossman, I am trying to concentrate?"

Early Travellers in North America (Thursday, BBC2, 10.10pm)

When Charles Dickens visited America in the 1840s he was so revolted by the insistent hawking and spitting of the natives that he decided to write a novel about it — to be called "Great Expectations". (Just a joke, but it's true about the spitting.) Anyway, this

TV REVIEW

new six-part series is made up of testimonies from

half a dozen Victorian writers — among them Anthony Trollope, Fanny Trollope, Dickens and R.L. Stevenson — who wrote vivid pun-free accounts of their New World experiences, with each writer impersonated by a relaxed-looking actor in not-exactly-Victorian costume (predominant colours: white and brown).

The blend of talking heads with old photos and engravings makes for quite static television (shouts of "This is radio, surely?" will be heard in some living-rooms) but it makes you listen to the words, which is surely the point.

Around Whicker's World — The Ultimate Package (Friday, ITV, 8pm)

For people who believe that the "single supplement" is a gross inquiry, this new Alan Whicker series should make the blood boil. He embarks on a round-the-world package holiday where the supplement is £3,000. Eighty-seven people fly the world by private Tri-Star in 34 days, allowing the Great Blasted One to pose at all the globe's major landmarks. The fare is steep (£37,000 for a couple, £21,500 for a single), but did they pay more, or less, for Whicker's presence?

L.T.

Record review: Sophie B. Hawkins, the Britten Quartet and Yuri Bashmet

Exploding taboos

Sophie B. Hawkins muses: "There's something about my life which is really strange. Big things just seem to happen, and I have to work it out, right there."

The biggest thing so far has been the immediate worldwide success of her debut single, "Damn I Wish I Was Your Lover", a song that delves into deep currents of sexual yearning with a ripe, haunting melody and a gentle yet insistent metre.

Now comes the album, provocatively titled *Tongues and Tails* (Columbia 468823 2). Like the single, it is seductive, a collection of music with a racing pulse beating beneath its calm surface sheen.

But the first "big thing" which Hawkins, now aged 25, had to confront, while still a teenager in New York, was the unhappiness and instability of her family life. Her father was a lawyer with a drink problem, her mother a self-obsessed (and largely undiscovered) writer, "a complex person, openly very cruel, but also very funny, very imaginative and very twisted".

One of the songs on the

album, the bittersweet "Carry Me", is about Hawkins's relationship with her mother, which, in keeping with the album's casual way of exploding taboos, is seemingly garnished with a hint of sexual innuendo. Hawkins demurs: "I'm always surprised that people don't get the humour of 'Carry Me', although it is covering an incredible amount of pain and anger."

At the age of 14 Hawkins moved in with her lover Gordy and a community of musicians, led by the Nigerian master drummer Babatundé Olatunji. "I grew up in this neighbourhood that was really black and Hispanic, so the drums were everywhere," she remembers. Having studied piano and music theory as a child, she took to playing all manner of percussion instruments, developing the deep-seated feel for Afro-Cuban rhythms that lends *Tongues and Tails* much of its intriguing quality.

Hawkins — who was hired briefly as a percussionist by Bryan Ferry — creates a rich



Percussive: Sophie B. Hawkins has a feel for rhythm

percussive underlay to her music. It is a measure of her confidence that she was able to recruit the peerless Omar Hakim to play drums on the album, although he is not in the eight-piece band which will accompany her at the Bloomsbury Theatre, London, on Monday: "Omar's just too expensive, he's a real star".

Hawkins has star quality of her own, in abundance. Tall, fair, strong and confident, her heroes include Marlene Dietrich and Madonna. With music as strong and sensual as the songs on this album she could become a blonde icon as potent as her role models.

DAVID SINCLAIR

Trio of one-off quartets

CLASSICAL

The Britten Quartet has followed its fine documentation of the Britten and Tippett quartets with a disc of one-off string quartets by Verdi, Cherubini and Turina (Collins Classics 12672).

The Turina is a single eight-minute movement called *La Oracion del Toro*. Something of a surprise insight into the prayer life of a torero, it hovers in authentically Andalusian intervals and cadences, made gently astringent by homage to the string writing of Debussy.

The Cherubini Quartet No 1 in E flat is rather more substantial. Written just as the works of Mozart and Beethoven were becoming known in France, it cries unabashedly from the symphonies of Cherubini's contemporary, Mehul.

yet does so in such compellingly idiosyncratic writing that the music seems distinctively Cherubini's own.

Verdi's finale is a Scherzo Fuga which looks ahead 20 years to his last opera, *Falstaff*. And it is the operatic language — the ripe arias and the laughing ensembles — in which the Britten Quartet revels in a performance which uncovers more wit than most.

Verdi expressed a wish to have the quartet played with 20 players to a part. He should, perhaps, have looked to the services of Mahler, who proved himself a dab hand at metamorphosing the quartets of Schubert (D810) and Beethoven (Op 95) for the broader span of a string orchestra. Yuri

Bashmet and his Moscow Soloists take on the challenge of establishing the credibility of these works in their own right in a teasing and revelatory double release (RCA RD60988).

Only in the famous slow variation movement of the "Death and the Maiden" quartet (which they will bring to the Proms this season) does any sense of unfavourable comparison with the original quartet version really intrude. Elsewhere, his band proves itself to be made up of true soloists, maintaining the clarity of the part writing within the heady Allegro of the opening, and tracing the finest of networks of cross-accenting and dynamic subtlety in the final Presto.

HILARY FINCH



GUILTY SECRETS

DICKIE BIRD

Test umpire: "I'm addicted to Westerns. Waiting for the shoot-out at the end is exciting; a bit like waiting for the climax of a good Test match. I watch Clint Eastwood films over and over again. *A Fistful of Dollars* is my favourite. There are not enough Westerns on television. They should be on every night."

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SATURDAY JULY 18 1992

ARTS

Sarajevo-Hollywood, via Cannes

The Serbian film director Emir Kusturica talks to Oscar Moore about his first American project

Hollywood has been a magnet for film-makers from across the globe ever since a collection of shrewd and talented East European Jews built their early empires. Not content with discovering stars by the soda fountain at Schwab's, the moguls' talent scouts plundered and pillaged theatre companies and movie studios across Europe. They were, of course, helped by the second world war. Just as Russian pogroms helped create the studios, so German Nazism helped fill them with talent, but the lure has survived both the Bolsheviks and the Reich.

For many the lure has been best expressed in greenbacks and work schedules. Hollywood, along with Bombay and possibly Hong Kong, is a talent-hungry fiction factory where success brings the rapid rewards of riches and repeats.

But there is a secondary lure that should be called America, not Hollywood. It is the lure of a land that most Europeans see for the first time through television and on the movie screen. It is a country resonant with cinematic potential from its architecture to its landscape, from its people to its brief history.

When Billy Wilder went to Hollywood he went to make American movies and he made them better than many Americans knew how. When Wim Wenders went to America it was to make a European version of an American genre. His *Paris, Texas* was definitively American in its location and story, and entirely European in its style and pace.

It is exactly that fusion of America and Europe for which Emir Kusturica is aiming in his first big budget offshore shoot — tentatively titled *American Dreamers*. A film shot all over America, from New York to Alaska to Arizona, starring Americans (Johnny Depp, Faye Dunaway and Jerry Lewis), but made with \$17 million of French money, and two French producers, Claude Ollier and Yves Marmion. For all that the title may yet go (it is already the director's second, after the more alluring *Arrow of God*), it is an accurate summation of Kusturica's starting point: a dissection of the American dream by one of Europe's most remarkable talents.

Kusturica has built an extraordinary reputation on a so far tiny body of work. Emerging from Sarajevo, Television, where his documentaries had provoked controversy and bans as well as plaudits and prizes, his second feature film — *When Father Was Away on Business* — snatched



Kindred spirits? Johnny Depp (left) and director Emir Kusturica on location in Arizona during the shooting of *American Dreamers*

the 1985 Cannes Palme d'Or from the fingers of far more famous rivals and catapulted him to the front rank of Europe's auteurs. Dispelling any suggestion that this was a one-off wonder, Kusturica's third film, *Time of the Gypsies*, won the 1989 Cannes Best Director prize and lodged on many critics' all-time Top Tens. But this wildly bearded Serb, having flown his Sarajevo coop, was not likely to linger on the Croisette nursing his statues.

Kusturica accepted an invitation to teach a film course at Columbia University and began, at the same time, to put his own American dream under scrutiny. "The American dream is the dream of everyone in the Western civilisation to have a car, a little money and a house. But when I was living in America for two years, I found that America itself was very different. People are unhappy and much poorer than I expected. There is a problem then, because in destroying the illusion of the American dream you are destroying part of your youth, a childhood spent watching movies."

Still in love with a land that has "the biggest sky and the nicest clouds in the world," Kusturica wrestled with feelings of betrayal, disappointment, and admiration for a people who in the face of all disasters keep "having a nice day." "They have to. They cannot allow themselves to be despondent; have a nice day, have a nice weekend, have a nice night. It is extremely difficult to maintain." And

all the time he was looking for the kernel of his next movie.

"If you live somewhere for two years, especially the States, you think about the movie that you would like to do there. This film is a product of living in the States and being stupid and courageous enough to go into American production."

More specifically the film is a product of Kusturica's spell at Columbia. One of the director's students, David Atkins, gave him a script to read that contained a "little piece about a young boy who didn't know what to do with his life. Somehow I was interested in exploring the declining empire of the car industry in the States because America is always the country of movies and cars, and in this small piece I saw something similar to what I wanted to do."

The resulting collaboration blends the mystical with the mechanical in a mix that searches into the mishapen soul of a misled America.

And Blackmar (Johnny Depp) is orphaned at 20 by a car crash, and three years later has contentedly opted out. He spends his days counting fish for the New York Department of Fish and Game and dreaming of Alaska. But this dream-world is interrupted by the arrival of Uncle Leo (Jerry Lewis), an Arizona Cadillac dealer who wants his nephew to become heir to his teetering business.

Transplanted to Arizona to learn

the three "S"s of sales: seduction, sex and psychology. Axel yearns for the peaceful anonymity of the Hudson River until he stumbles into the lives of Elaine and Grace Stalker, a crazed widow (Faye Dunaway) and her stepdaughter (Lili Taylor). Sucked into the vortex of their lives, Axel's own dreams flourish in the company of a girl who dreams of becoming a urde and a woman who dreams of flying.

While Kusturica's sensibility may have survived the American production experience, his health nearly did not. Mid-filming, after a week of night shoots and faced with the combination of an escalating budget, accelerating exhaustion and encroaching money-men, Kusturica retired to New York and refused to shoot another foot of film until the financiers gave him space.

In Hollywood such antics are generally called "creative differences" and lead to the departure of the temperate director. In France, however, the director has the "droit moral" on his side, protecting his vision, and his French backers indulged their man, agreeing to his conditions and coaxing him back to work. The fact that each of his stars refused to continue under any other director helped his case. It was also a measure of the respect Kusturica had discovered in his collaborators.

In Depp he found a soul-brother, a fellow child of the "post-punk generation". But in Dunaway Kusturica was facing one of the most difficult Hollywood creations: the diva who

has had it all and whose legend has outlasted her commercial supremacy.

"To understand Mrs Dunaway is actually not very easy," admits Kusturica. "I didn't have clashes with her, but hers is a kind of method acting which is not co-acting. That's the problem with Hollywood."

"She represented that in the beginning, but we overcame that problem together. I said to her that this is a movie where all the people must act with each other all the time. If you are scared or insecure, just let me know. And she let me know. She will be very good in the movie."

With the notable exception of Scorsese's *King of Comedy*, Jerry Lewis has barely been seen on the American screen in the past ten years. But for Kusturica, Lewis was almost like America itself — a vision he had cherished as a child that he was suddenly seeing in close-up. The difference was that Lewis did not disillusion him.

"I had heard a lot of bad things about Jerry, but they must have been lies. For me Jerry Lewis was crazy. He was extremely pleased because I was laughing at what he did, but at the same time I had to control him, because in this movie he is dying and he has many very serious scenes. He is a very good actor."

"The reason that the cast is so eclectic somehow relates to the States and even to the movies: to things like Jerry's comedies and to *Bonnie and Clyde*. You cannot be original, coming from Sarajevo to the States."

Contrasting campaigns

The appetite of the Japanese for Western music, including opera and dance, appears to be insatiable. The European record and videogame industry could scarcely survive without it. But the appetite extends to live performance as well. The sheer quantity of Western orchestras, opera and dance companies brought to Tokyo and other major cities by assorted Japanese impresarios is bewildering.

The Royal Opera House's association with the Japan Performing Arts Foundation (NBS) goes back to 1975, when the Royal Ballet first toured to Tokyo. The Royal Opera has been twice (in 1979 and 1986) and is currently on its third visit, playing the three Japanese operas: *Mozart-Da Ponte* productions in Tokyo, Osaka and (Figaro only) Yokohama. This launches a four-year project by NBS's visionary and ruthlessly well-organised director Tadatsugu Sasaki, OBE (for services to British culture), to present four leading European companies to Japanese audiences. The Deutsche Oper Berlin follows next year, the Vienna State Opera in 1994, and La Scala Milan in 1995. The fact that about 3,000 subscriptions have already been sold for the whole

In Japan, Rodney Milnes sees the Royal Opera triumph, while Stephen Pettitt (below) tours with the Northern Sinfonia

package — at seat prices comparable to those at Covent Garden — indicates the insatiability of the appetite.

The Royal Opera is not displeased to be the first: indeed, there is nothing like experiencing a prophet-in-another-country tour to assess the status of a company. Japanese impresarios know what they want and can be decidedly firm about casting, which is where record-industry pressures come in: there were one or two deviations from Covent Garden casts.

Sasaki obviously wants the Germans and Austrians to perform Wagner and Strauss, the Italians to bring Rossini and Verdi; for him the Royal Opera's selling-point to local audiences is the quality of their ensemble, and it seems to have worked. Advance sales for *Figaro* and *Giovanni* were in excess of 90 per cent. After the first night of *Giovanni* on July 9, attended by the viola-playing, chamber-music expert Crown Prince Naruhito, the operaphile Hiroto Higurashi, president of the tour's chief sponsors, Asahi

Breweries, predicted that the remaining evenings would immediately sell out.

They deserve to: the performance was excellent. Schaaf had re-rehearsed the original cast in London and Tokyo. Bernard Haitink was at his fiercest, and Thomas Allen sang the title role more beautifully than I can remember — the Serenade was one of those moments when you wanted time to be suspended. Two nights later *Figaro*, again under Haitink and with the orchestra on outstanding form, was equally crisp and meticulous. The Bunka Kaikan Theatre's acoustics and sightlines are first-rate, and the absence of a proscenium helped to concentrate attention on the spare designs.

Audience reaction on both evenings was riveting. I had been warned that the Japanese tended to be serious, polite but undemonstrative, but this was not altogether the case. Serious, yes, and quiet as mice. Polite, yes, but not undiscriminating: they know quality

when they see it, and Lucio Gallo's remarkable *Figaro*, for instance, which had gained greatly in assurance and vocal pungency since he sang the role in London, was rightly engulfed in a storm of applause at the curtain calls. And "undemonstrative" is not the word. Demands for more calls threatened to disrupt the royal progress on stage after *Giovanni*.

The effect of all this on the company coming to the end of a long, exhausting and on the whole successful London season was a joy to behold. Here, at least, they knew their strengths and special qualities were being appreciated, not just by audiences, but by promoters and sponsors (RTZ, the other main supporter, threw a lavish party for them). The best moment came at an NBS reception on July 12, when Asahi's Higurashi, still on an infectious operatic high, interrupted scripted pleasantries to announce that his company would be making a substantial donation to the ROH Development. Management jaws dropped, many a hand was warmly shaken. How different, how very different, from the way this artistic prophet and prime cultural ambassador is treated by its paymasters in its own country.

A slightly careful account of Mozart's Symphony No 40 ended this concert, the same piece, given now with more urgency, closed the tour on a high note in Tokyo's impressive Suntory Hall. Finally, in the presence of Japan's crown prince, the Sinfonia sensed a real occasion and rose to its best form, responding equally to the lovely acoustic and to a large and genuinely enthusiastic audience. Schiff played the Haydn with more grace than before, while the Schmittke reached yet deeper regions of conscience. It was a fitting leave-taking by a first-rate ensemble, that deserves not to be taken lightly by anyone, at home or abroad.

STEPHEN PETTITT

OPERA: NEW YORK

Meeting of minds over a 50-year gap

ROBERT WILSON has met his match. The iconoclastic stage designer and director from Texas, best known for imposing his abstract, sometimes absurdist style on the standard works of the opera repertory, has found a more appropriate vehicle for his bold theatrical vision in *Dr Faustus Lights the Lights*, an opera-libretto-without-a-score by Gertrude Stein.

Stein uses the invention of the lightbulb as a unifying metaphor to explore, in so conventional a word applies, the Faust legend. It is doubtful whether Kili Marlowe or Goethe would recognise the story as scripted by Stein and staged by Wilson: the title role is played by three performers, one of whom waltzes with Mephisto: a dog, played by a pony-tailed woman in a dark suit, says "Thank you"; and an eight-foot-tall man in a white dress and red wig lumbers about, threatening the other characters with a scythe.

The play is far from top-notch Stein — the incantatory repetitions, frequently, seem merely repetitious, and there is no emotional core to anchor the piece — but it is certainly diverting theatre as performed by the members of the Hebbel Theatre of Berlin. These attractive young actors speak their English-language lines with accents that are sometimes so heavy that one wonders whether they understand what they are saying (literally poetic justice, perhaps, for all the mangled German of young American singers in recent years); but it seems a deliberate play on the direc-

tor's part to further abstract Stein's Cubist language.

As is his wont, Wilson creates a phantasmagoric series of tableaux: windows appear and disappear, lightbulbs descend from the flies and flicker in sympathy with the stage action, a marionette is murdered. At just 90 minutes, *Dr Faustus Lights the Lights* is a satisfying evening, free of the ennui that so often accompanies Robert Wilson's productions. Yet the 50-year-old play's pretensions to being quite avant-garde and daring are quaint indeed, and even some of Wilson's eccentricities are beginning to wear thin: the strange little hand gestures, a trademark, now seem pointless.

The piece succeeds best when it treats the material as an opera. The recorded score by Hans Peter Kuhn is written in a minimalist idiom that is strongly reminiscent of the work of Wilson's occasional collaborator, Philip Glass. There is one lovely moment when an absurd phrase is chanted with great seriousness by a young woman, accompanied only by pizzicato strings and a whistling chorus. For once the stage action is stilled to allow the music some breathing room, and it soars, indisputably as much an aria as anything by Verdi.

JAMIE JAMES



Hebbel Theatre in *Doctor Faustus Lights the Lights*

THE SUNDAY TIMES

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Scope — in The Sunday Times Magazine tomorrow

PAULINE COLLINS



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Directed by SIMON CALLOW

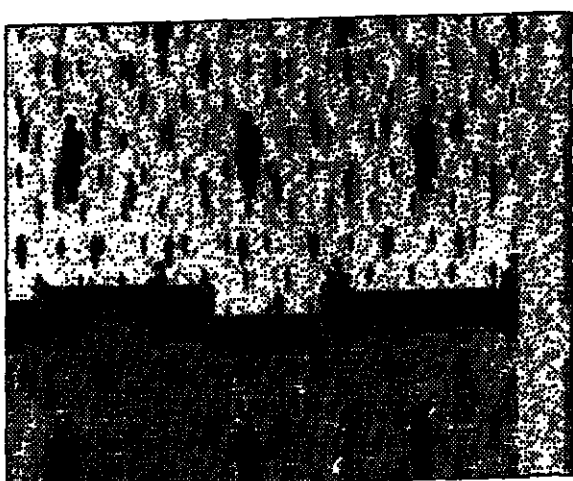
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All roads, it seems, eventually lead to Japan. This was the Northern Sinfonia's first visit to this most commercially minded of nations, and its true purpose was made clear when Paul Nicholson, chairman of the Tyne and Wear Development Corporation, which sponsored the tour, pleaded with the local industrial worthies at a reception after a concert in the city of Nagoya, a hundred minutes by "bullet train" west of Tokyo, to set up their European shops in the north-east of England.

Heinrich Schiff, the Sinfonia's conductor, and his charges had just had to face a sparse and unenthusiastic, if polite, audience in the acoustically unfriendly Kolbe

Bite the bullet train

Nenkin Kalkan, where I caught up with the orchestra halfway through its tour. That particular experience had been fairly typical, and unsurprisingly the playing was by now showing signs of flagging spirits.

For instance, Haydn's D major Cello Concerto, played and directed by Schiff, seemed at times heavily phrased, and Bartók's Divertimento sounded slightly tame. But with a fresher wind section, Schubert's Fifth Symphony was true to the music's verdant spirit.

More or less the same conditions prevailed in the

far-flung Tokyo suburb of Machida two nights later. Schiff brought his players off the platform without even thinking about giving the customary encore.

Yet there was a gem here, a remarkably intense performance of Schmittke's Concerto Grosso No 1, a strangely powerful, dark work which parodies Bach and Vivaldi, Viennese waltz and Spanish tango. The violin soloists, Paul Barritt and Lesley Hatfield, warmed to their task, undisturbed even by the snapping of Hatfield's E string at a crucial moment.

Let's go out to eat tonight

Frances Bissell, the Times cook, suggests a menu-versatile enough for dinner in the garden — or a quick retreat indoors



THE theme of eating outdoors continues this week with food you can prepare indoors well in advance and serve outdoors at your leisure.

Ice-cream and cool soup are suitable for a hot summer's night, but the dishes could equally well be served for Sunday lunch. If the weather turns, a table can be laid indoors and the soup served hot, as can the quails and quail eggs.

Hot-weather food needs to be flavoured, and I have picked out some strong Mediterranean flavours to help: basil, garlic and lavender. The latter was in full heady bloom in our part of London some weeks ago, and I am hoping that there will be enough left to make lavender ice-cream, which is one of my summer favourites.

Not long ago, I realised that my prejudice against strawberries was beginning to show. It is not that I dislike them, but if I eat them I pay the price in spotty skin. The best way to eat them is to pile them into a bowl, rinsed only if they need it, and certainly not hulled. The accompaniments are a bowl of whipped cream or crème fraîche and one of light muscovado sugar. Eat the strawberry after dipping in first one bowl, then the other.

Eton Mess is a more sophisticated version and includes raspberries. The quail dish can be eaten freshly cooked and hot, or warm, or cold. A bowl of fluffy, hot saffron rice, or rice salad, will be a good accompaniment, together with some warmed-through chapatis or parathas. This way you can scoop up the rice with bread and eat the quail and eggs in your fingers.

Jugs of Pimm's, or a white wine cup full of herbs, flowers and fruit, would go well with the food, as would a good dry cider. I am tempted to serve the following raspberry cocktail to begin with, slightly decadent and old-fashioned and extremely summery. I first tasted it in Hong Kong and I have been looking for an excuse to serve it ever since. No matter if the raspberries do not get as far as the Eton Mess.

Raspberry cocktail
(per serving)
2-3 ripe raspberries
1 tsp icing sugar or sugar syrup
1/2 measure of eau de vie de framboise
tonic water

Put the raspberries in the bottom of a wine glass or cocktail glass. Sprinkle with icing sugar and add the eau de vie. Top up with ice-cold tonic water. A stronger version replaces the tonic water with sparkling wine; the luxury version uses champagne.

ONE of the best soups I have made recently came about through a coincidence of leftovers. I had cooked jumbo lima beans and made them into a smooth, white purée, as a change from hummus. I served it in a bowl made of iceberg lettuce leaves, and spooned a pungent basil and garlic-flavoured olive oil on top. For the main course, I poached a piece of grise (young, wild salmon).

With the leftover fish and the leftover beans, I planned to make a smooth, creamy, pale pink soup of beans and salmon, using the cooking liquid from both. Then I remembered how Alice Waters serves soup at Chez Panisse in Berkeley, California. Taking complementary flavours, textures and colours, the two soups are kept separate as they are poured into the bowls.

It is a most attractive presentation, and the basil and garlic oil finishes it off well.

The simplified version, blending all together, is also good, and the first time I made the soup I served it chilled, which will be perfect for a summer evening.

Salmon and white bean soups with basil and garlic oil
(serves 4-6)
1/2 lb/230g cooked salmon
1 pt/580ml salmon stock
1/2 lb/340g cooked white beans
1 pt/580ml bean cooking liquor
salt, pepper
pinch of mace
2 fresh garlic cloves
pinch of coarse sea salt
a few basil leaves
3 tbsp extra virgin olive oil

Blend together the salmon, salmon stock and 2oz/60g beans. Put in a saucepan, heat and season. Blend the beans and bean cooking liquor and heat in a separate saucepan. Season with salt, pepper and a pinch of mace. Peel and roughly chop the garlic cloves and grind to a paste with the coarse salt in a mortar. Tear up the basil leaves, and grind these into the paste; then blend in the olive oil.

Bring the soups to the boil, and carefully pour into a heated soup tureen or individual soup bowls.

Pour each soup from opposite sides of the bowl so that they do not blend completely. Drizzle a little basil oil in the centre and serve immediately. If serving the soup cold, blend the ingredients as described, without heating or boiling, and serve in chilled soup bowls or tureen.

Spiced quails and quail eggs
(serves 8)
2 dozen quail eggs
8 quails
2oz/60g butter, melted
1 tsp flour
1 tsp ground coriander
1 tsp ground cumin
1/2 tsp each of crushed cardamom seeds, ground cinnamon, ground cloves, Madras curry powder, coarsely ground black pepper, sea salt and mustard powder
1/2 pt/280ml quail or chicken stock

Boil the quail eggs, and shell when cool enough to handle. Put to one side. Cut the quails into four pieces — two breasts, two legs — and use the back and trimmings to make stock.

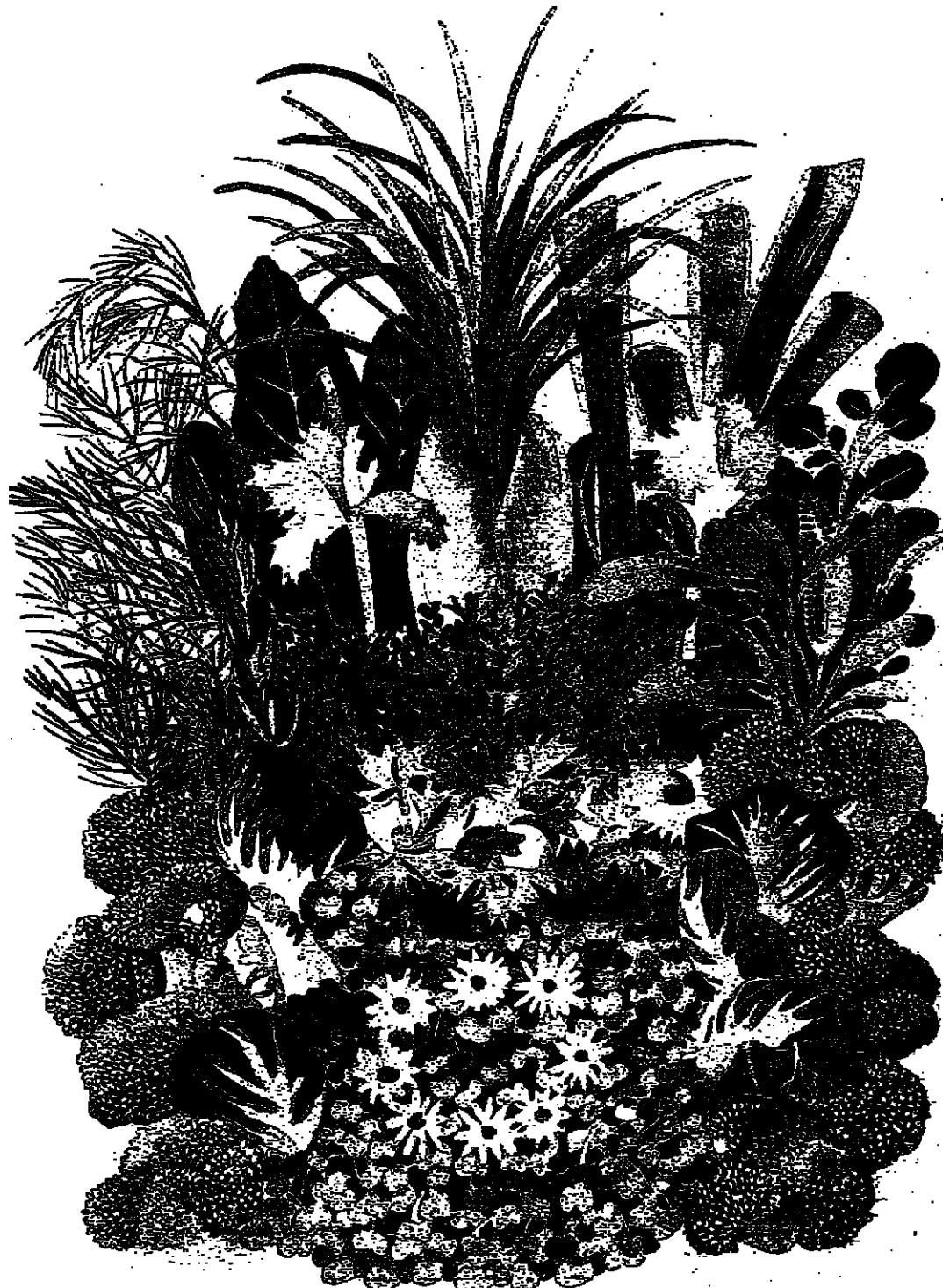
Brush the pieces with melted butter. Put the flour and dry seasoning in a bag, and shake the quail pieces in it to coat them. In a heavy frying pan (non-stick, or add a little oil), fry the quail pieces until just done, which will take about eight to ten minutes with such small pieces. Remove from the pan, and put to one side. Pour the stock into the pan and boil, scraping up the cooking residues. Adjust the seasoning, and add a spot of lemon juice if liked.

Pile the quail eggs into the middle of a dish with the pieces of quail around them. Pour the strained sauce over meat and eggs.

Lavender ice-cream
(serves 8; N.B. this recipe uses uncooked eggs)
6oz/170g granulated sugar
1/2-1oz/15-30g fresh lavender buds, plus extra buds for decoration
1/2 pt/280ml full cream milk
7 free-range egg yolks
1/2 pt/280ml single cream, or 1/2 lb/230g crème fraîche

In a clean coffee grinder, or with a mortar and pestle, grind 5oz/140g of sugar and the flowers until thoroughly blended. Stir into the milk, and bring to the boil. Beat the cream and egg yolks together in a bowl, and pour the lavender-flavoured milk into it, stirring all the time.

Return the mixture to the sauce-



pan, and cook gently until it just coats the back of a spoon, but do not let it boil or the eggs will curdle.

Allow to cool, then freeze in a machine or in the freezer.

Crystallise the lavender flowers by dipping in water or egg white, rolling in the remaining sugar and placing them on a piece of paper to dry. Scoop out the ice-cream and decorate with crystallised lavender.

TO FINISH, one of the simplest and summeriest of all desserts:

Eton Mess
(per serving)
2-3oz/60-85g whipping cream
3-4oz/85-110g mixed strawberries and raspberries
a little icing sugar
splash of kirsch or Grand Marnier

For this recipe you must hull the fruit (rinse only if absolutely necessary, and gently dry on paper towels). In a bowl, crush the raspberries and strawberries lightly with a fork. Some of the fruit can be left whole. Sprinkle with sugar and liqueur. In another bowl whip the cream. Fold fruit and cream together, and serve in wine glasses or large glass trifle bowl. Macaroons or amaretti can be served with it.

FRANCE GREAT CLASSICS RILLETTES

I AM aware that my choice of French Classics so far has been made almost entirely within the *cuisine bourgeoise/cuisine familiale* repertoire, giving haute cuisine a wide berth. It reflects the kind of food I am in the mood for cooking at the moment: inexpensive, seasonal and relatively easy to make. Rillettes, too, fall into this category. Although these can be made with goose, rabbit or mixed meats, pork is the meat usually used. A modern extension of the dish is to serve *rillettes de saumon*, a mixture of shredded, cooked and smoked salmon mixed with seasoned butter, which resembles fish paste to a remarkable degree.

Pork rillettes are particularly economical at the moment. As it is still seen as a winter meat, the price of pork comes down in the summer. Belly pork is the cut traditionally used, with as much fat as lean. The whole point of rillettes is the texture and flavour supplied by the fat. No one says you have to eat the whole pot in one go — rillettes keep well in the refrigerator for a week or so, and make a good sandwich filling. A scoop of rillettes with lettuce salad, a pickle or two, bread and a glass of wine makes for a good lunch, or spread it on fingers of hot toast as appetisers with drinks. Duck and pork or rabbit and pork can also be used.

Rillettes de porc
(makes about 2lb/900g)
2 1/2-3lb/100-1.10kg fat belly pork
1/2 pt/140ml water
1 tsp salt
freshly ground black pepper
1 bay leaf
1 sprig of thyme
1 sage leaf, if you like the flavour
a pinch each of nutmeg or mace, cloves and cinnamon

Cut the meat into 1in/2.5cm chunks, and put in an earthenware casserole or other ovenproof pot. Add the rest of the ingredients, and put in the bottom of a low oven for at least four hours. This can be done overnight if you are sure of your oven. The meat will be cooked, swimming in fat with the water evaporated.

Pour into a large sieve set over a bowl. Remove any bones and the herbs, and shred the meat with two forks. Pack the meat into straight-sided pots or jam jars, and pour on the fat so that it seeps into the meat and covers the surface. Cool, cover and then refrigerate.

F.B.

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Eastern promise: Master of Wine Angela Muir has made Slovakia her pet project

SINCE the wheels fell off the Soviet empire, western wine lovers have been waiting for wonderful, cheap wines to come gushing from the wreckage. I fear it could prove a long wait.

Hugh Johnson, author of the pocket books and the *Wine Atlas*, has an anecdote illustrating the standards of disorganisation from which the former Soviet wine industries have to recover. When he was staying in Tbilisi the only wine his hotel could provide, after a day's search, was undrinkable.

Robert Henham, an importer whose tasting I recently attended, had similar experiences. He had been approached by five gentlemen from Georgia and had agreed to import their wines. But when the shipment arrived his customers rejected them. A forgiving man, he tried to explain to the Georgians what was wrong and they promised to try again. We were supposed to be tasting the results, but what had arrived were apparently much the same wines, labelled only in Cyrillic and Georgian, plus two unasked for and peculiarly fiery vodkas.

Tasters, mostly from the trade, sampled the wines cautiously, muttering carefully chosen phrases such as: "These wines certainly have their place" (down a drain?), and "The raw material is all there" (which I translate as: "only they muck it up afterwards").

Georgian wines are imported to Britain by Mr Henham's company, R.H. & M. Vincals (071-499 7674). I am told they sell partly on their curiosity value and their labels' "ethnic charm". Hugh Johnson, who is very kindly disposed, said he hoped people would buy them from feelings of sympathy, too.

Georgia may be a particularly hard case. Producers there have been in the habit of leaving wine in oak or concrete tanks as long as they can, regardless of whether the vat is full or half empty.

Martin Assirani, who set up the Russian Wine Company (071-499 1300) in 1989 with the intention of importing the best wines which the Soviet Union could offer, avoids Georgia. His wines at present come from Moldova, except for the sparkling brut, Grand Duchess, which he gets from Ukraine.

They have been accepted on to the lists of leading wine merchants such as Adnams of Southwold and Tanners of Shrewsbury, and on to the shelves of Harrods, Selfridges, La Vigneronne (which has a range of nine at 105 Old Brompton Road, London SW7), and London's smart new wine, Robinson in Kensington High Street.

Others are doing their best

with other east European countries. Hugh Ryman, a British winemaker trained in Australia and based in France, turned to Hungary when frost in April gave advance warning of the comparative failure of the 1991 white wine vintage in western France.

He has found a ready welcome for wines from the Gyöngyös estate which he and his Australians helped to make — the 1991 sauvignon and chardonnay are stocked by most of the leading retailers. Mr Ryman found Gyöngyös full of expensive, unwashed equipment. His team had to dismantle and scrub the vats. There were six presses. The Ryman team used three, and cleaned them after each pressing. The Hungarians used the

other three and did not clean them once until the vintage was over.

Angela Muir, of the Heart of Europe Wine Company and the Fulham Road Wine Centre (071-384 2588), has adopted Slovakia. A Master of Wine who is unusually interested in cheap wine, she has shown some samples of Czechoslovakian wines and thought she detected, under the smelt of bad winemaking, the presence of really good fruit. She offered to go and coach the wine producers, and the Slovaks have made her a major-general in thanks for her efforts.

Attitudes in Slovakia, she found, were more adaptable than in Moravia. She chose a group of four wineries in which to take an interest, and with prescriptions of strict hygiene, proper filtration and sterile bottling she has nursed the production of six clean varietals acceptable to western palates. So acceptable, indeed, that the cabinet quickly sold out, and you will be lucky now to find any of the delectably light and raspberryish pinot noir from Bratislava-Raca, or the unusually light and zesty Gewürztraminer from Hlohovec-Tmava, still left at Wine Rack or Bottoms Up, where they have been selling for £3.25 and £2.99 respectively.

The first, quite modest results of eastern reform and modernisation are in the shops now. If you sympathise, buy.

Best buys

- Grand Duchess Ukraine Sparkling Brut, 111 Tesco Superstores, £5.59. Proves that Ukraine can manage as good a dry sparkling wine as most coming from Spain or Italy.
- 1979 Negra de Parkar Adnams of Southwold, about £9. Austere, old-fashioned Moldovan wine made from Cabernet Sauvignon, Saperavi and Rara Niagara grapes, initial ashenness and acidity yielding up flavours of leather, tobacco and some gameness. Best decanted, left to breathe, and sipped with cheese at the end of the meal.
- 1991 Gyöngyös Estate Sauvignon, Hungary Wine Rack, Bottoms Up, £3.25, Majestic Wine Warehouse, £3.19, Safeway £2.99. The more successful of Hugh Ryman's Hungarian white varietals: has amazing initial impact, though its strenuous flavour becomes a bit wearing after the first glass.
- 1991 Frankovics Pinot Noir, Slovakia The Victoria Wine Company, £2.79. Frisky and juicy young red, Slovakia's inexpensive alternative to Beaujolais.

SATURDAY JULY 18 1992

FOOD AND DRINK

Say cheese, and Pugson smiles

Peter Pugson is carving out his future as a grocer with a style of service from the past. Fiona Beckett reports

Festival-goers in Buxton, Derbyshire, to sample the delights of Handel's *Agrippina* and the county's youth wind band over the next fortnight can add an unscheduled event to their programme: a visit to Pugson's, the cheesemonger, wine merchant and purveyor of fine foods.

Pugson's is not just a shop but a shopping experience. You do not pop in merely to buy Sturminster Cheddar or Buxton Blue, but to enjoy the company of Peter Pugson (Pugson to his friends), sometime chef, waiter, hotel manager and barman.

Mr Pugson believes in old-fashioned service. He greets customers by name, enquires about their health, wealth and happiness, charms grannies, beams amiably at children and addresses all and sundry on the subject of cheese.

Cheese is Mr Pugson's passion: he prods and pats it lovingly. His may not be the biggest cheese selection in Britain, but it must be one of the best. There is the local Buxton Blue, orange-marbled and softer than Stilton but full of flavour, and Sage Derby, with its brilliant green veins; traditional cloth-wrapped Red Leicester from Mrs Butler, of Inglewhite, Lancashire, and intensely creamy farmhouse Lancashire from Mrs Kirkham of Goosnargh; and 18-month matured Cheddar from the Sturminster Newton Dairy, Dorset, a real taste of the past.

There is Brie de Meaux, caught at the peak of perfection; Pont l'Évêque, Farmhouse Roquefort and Mont des Cats, made by Trappist monks. There, too, are ranks of obscure cow's and goat's milk cheeses: St Georges, St Marcel, St Felicien.

Customers not only get a choice of cheese, they can say how they want it: they can buy Jumbies (the local goat's cheese) one week old, light and crumbly fresh, or wait a few weeks longer until much of the moisture has evaporated, leaving the delicate flavour enhanced but not overpowering.

"About 65 per cent of a cheese's quality is in the ripening," Mr Pugson says. "It's far more important than pasteurisation. Cheese is a product of the soil. At Duckett's farm in Somerset, where we get our Cheshire, more than 70 different varieties of grass and flora have been identified; a wonderful mélange of flavours that work their way into the milk. Pasteurisation would kill all those flavours."

Mr Pugson developed his passion for cheese in France during a stint in the kitchens of Roger Vergé, a leading chef whose wines, oils and herbs he stocks. He intended to be a solicitor, but it didn't work. "A friend told me, 'You have to accept you'd be a lousy lawyer, but you're very good at serving

people', so I went into the hotel business."

He had four happy years working in London at the Savoy and Claridges, where he was night duty manager. Finally, after jobbing around France and Switzerland, he opened a cheese and wine shop in Wandsworth Bridge Road, west London, which he ran until he was squeezed out by soaring rents.

With his move to Buxton four years ago, closer to his main suppliers, he also went back to his roots (he was born in nearby Stoke-on-Trent). It was a success from day one, he says. "Everyone said I wouldn't make any money in Buxton but I took the same amount the first day I opened as my last day in London. I have been well supported by the local community."

It's not hard to see why. Pugson's is warm and welcoming. Packets of pasta spill out of the artfully opened drawers of an old pine dresser, the shelves of which carry a range of brightly coloured jams and pickles. Bacon is sliced to order.

Mr Pugson has developed his range to combat the attractions of the supermarkets, for whom he has few kind words. Wines are idiosyncratic: the cheap end from small southern French producers, the top end a highly personal selection of *cru* Beaujolais.

Ham is cut from the bone, pâtés are home-made, quiches and fresh fruit tarts are made to French recipes, treacle tart, its sweetness impeccably cut by lemon, is made 2in deep.

Prices are modest. Pugson's smoked mackerel pâté, zapped up Keith Floyd-style with a slosh of sherry, is 85p a 4lb what you would pay in a supermarket. His cheeses are sometimes cheaper. Granted, Buxton Blue is made locally, but he could easily get away with more than the £2.80 a lb he charges (about 40p less than in supermarkets). At £2.60 a lb his Stilton and Cheddar are a snip. "The public really don't know the cost of the food they buy," he says. "They go where they think it's cheap. People don't appreciate that the fewer small shops they have, the less choice they get."

Pugson's Derbyshire potted ham (serves 8-10)

1lb/450g good quality ham; two-thirds meat to fat (the fat is crucial; leftover ham on the bone is ideal); 1 mild-flavoured medium onion

2 tsp ground mace
freshly ground pepper
4-5fl oz cognac
handful of parsley
4oz/250g butter

Remove the fat and chop the ham into chunks. Chop the onion finely in a food processor. Save half the chopped

onion. (For easier handling, the recipe is made in two batches.) To the remaining onion add half the meat, half the fat, and a couple of good shakes of mace and pepper. Process until the meat is the consistency of coarse breadcrumbs. Add the cognac, mix until smooth. Transfer to a bowl and repeat the process with the remaining ingredients. If the mixture seems dry add extra fat. Do not stint on brandy or fat.

Rinse a handful of parsley in water and squeeze out excess moisture. Cut off the parsley heads and chop them finely. Fold into the ham mixture. Put into serving dish. Melt the butter slowly until a white sediment forms, then spoon the clarified butter over the pâté to a depth of about ½ in. Chill before serving.

● Pugson's, Cliff House, Terrace Road, Buxton, Derbyshire SK17 6DR (0293 77699)



Purveyor with a passion: Peter Pugson's range of cheeses in his Derbyshire shop may not be the widest in Britain, but it is one of the best

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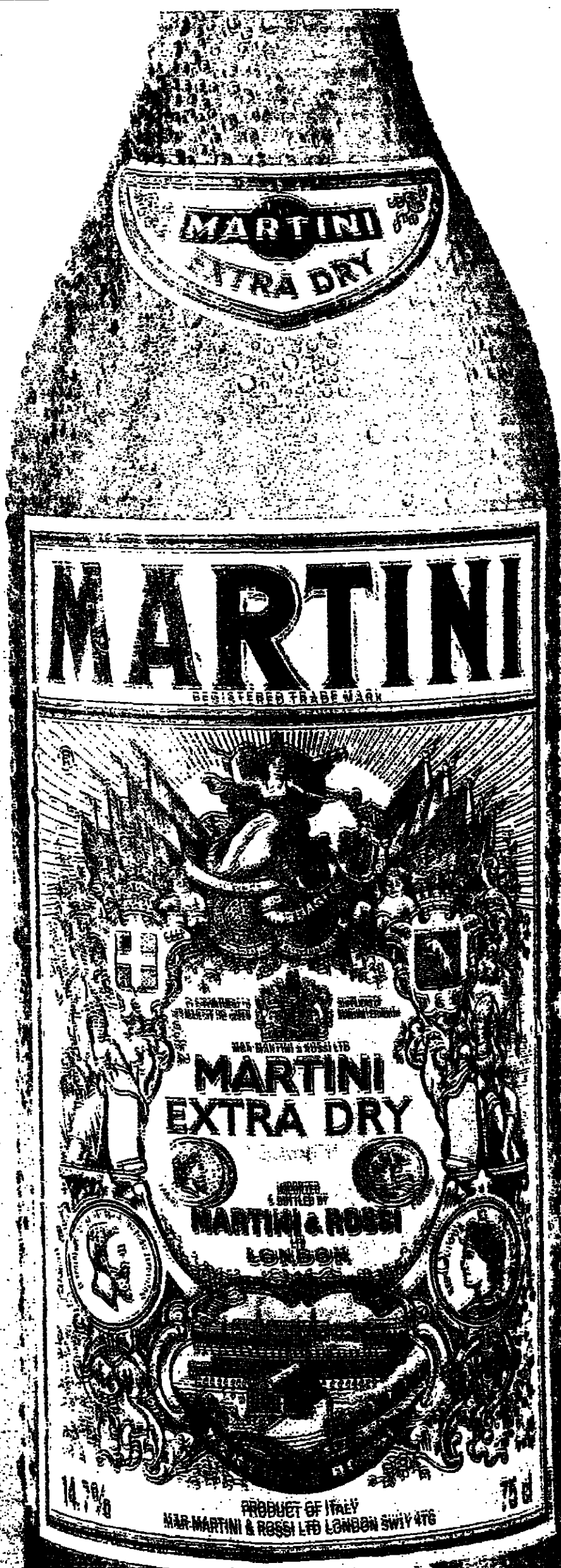
ISN'T THAT A REFRESHING IDEA?

COOL.

WHAT ELSE IS A FRIDGE FOR?

MARTINI

IT'S GOING TO BE AN
EXTRA DRY
WEEKEND



KIND FOOD: ALISON JOHNSON

Going nicely nutty

ANIMALS are what they eat, which explains the sticky smell of proprietary animal feed emanating from many an oven at Sunday lunchtime.

The average breed for early growth, and too young to have much flavour (hence a chicken can taste of the fishmeal on which it is fed).

Full organic production costs more, but if the price is out of your reach, the high-welfare ranges at the supermarket are a mid-way option. If in doubt, there is one rule of thumb: the cut of meat that costs you less costs the animal more.

Lamb is the only animal of which this is not entirely true. So far, mercifully, trials in rearing sheep intensively indoors have not been overly successful. Virtually all lamb has been suckled for the first month or so of life, and has grown to marketable size on pasture.

So if you hesitate over the free-range mark-up and the kindest cut to choose for the Sunday joint, go for lamb.

Here, however, is a recipe for my favourite roast — nuts. Vegetarians are frequently mocked to screaming point about a predilection for nut roast, but what's so funny about it? It is lovely stuff, and infinitely variable, depending on the type of nuts you use, and seasonings.

If you do not mill the nuts

too finely and do not bind the mixture with egg, you should end up with something moist inside and crunchy outside, interestingly textured and capable of bearing any of your favourite accompaniments to roast meat: cranberry, onion, bread or apple sauce, red-currant or herb jelly; two, three or four veg. But be warned, the roast will not carve nicely. In fact, it could look a mess.



Nut roast (serves 4)
8oz/250g chopped onion or more
1 tsp oil
1 carrot, grated
4oz/100g chopped nuts
2 tbsp tahini or peanut butter
4oz/100g wholemeal breadcrumbs
1 cup water or vegetable stock
salt, pepper
fresh or dried herbs

Fry onion in oil until golden. Add other ingredients. Turn into a greased, deep dish. Bake 40 min at 180°C.

For more elaborate versions, try these variations:

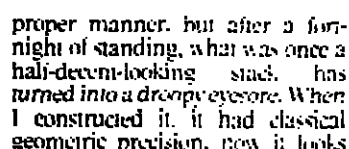
1 Add 2 cloves crushed garlic, 15 chopped black olives, 1 tsp tomato purée (especially good with a mixture of walnuts and hazelnuts).
2 Sauté 4oz/100g each chopped mushrooms and leeks in a little oil and spread as a layer in the middle of the nut mixture.
3 Use 30g pistachios or cashews left whole, milling the rest of the nuts (any sort) finely. Season with 1 tsp cumin seed and a pinch of chilli.
4 Use brazil nuts and fresh sage. Serve with baked apples stuffed with rosemary.

FARMER'S DIARY: PAUL HEINEY

He warns that an organic farming industry would sink, and that farmers would be relegated to

On the other hand, those farmers Sir Derek seeks to defend are not only being paid huge sums of money to do nothing whatsoever with their land, under the set-aside

My hay was made, carted and stacked in what I thought to be the



like a jelly that had a traumatic birth. I thought of ringing Sir Derek (preferably at 2am; but instead I turned for advice to a man better in tune with the soil: Derek, the retired farm-worker. He tells

This is apparently a common problem with haystacks and, having had my memory jogged, I do recall reading lurid accounts of the temperatures in the centre of stacks rising to the point where they caught fire of their own accord. Derek remembered one: "We used to shove an iron rod into them stacks, pull it out and see how 'n' it had got. I remember one that was so hot that when we pulled the rod out and spar on the end, it sizzled. It was only a downpour of rain that saved that stack from fire." This had me

There is a moral in this for the other Derek. Sir Derek Barber. He would do well to take the temperature of public opinion before he goes *slinging his lorkful of criticism* here, there and everywhere. If he is not careful he will find that the *issue catches fire*, and in the flames he and his supporters might get their fingers burnt.



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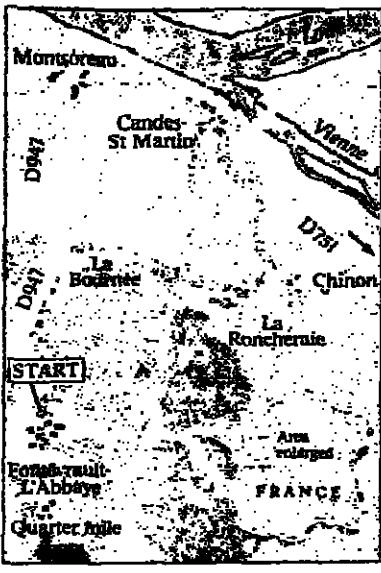
WHERE TO WALK

WHERE the river Vienne runs into the Loire, under a bank which at this time of year is ablaze with yellow broom, the turbid stream of the Loire and the clear water of its tributary run side by side without mingling for a kilometre or more, as they pass the almost secret waterfront of Candes-St Martin, one of Touraine's most beautiful and least-explored villages.

This walk to the confluence and to Candes starts from the great abbey of Fontevraud, dynastic burial place of the English royal family's Angevin ancestors. The tomb effigies of four Plantagenets lie dwarfed in the vast white space of the 12th-century church, savagely desecrated for 200 years and now a victim of clinically thorough restoration. The immense complex of dormitories and cloisters, extensive far beyond their present use as a cultural centre, powerfully convey the majesty of medieval monasticism. The Romanesque abbey kitchen, an amazing stone ballistics missile with multiple warheads, is the only one of its kind to survive.

The walk is based on a section of the GR3 long-distance footpath. Fontevraud-Abbey is 13km west of Chinon, along the D751. From the abbey's pompous main gate, take the main road to Montreuil, to the left. Turn second right (rue St Mainboeuf), and then follow the red and white GR waymarks right again, out of the village on an uphill track through woods. The first white admiral butterfly I ever saw floated past here, and wild strawberries grew beside the path.

At point A take a sharp left (clearly signalled) — waymarking admirably



plain and ample, once the French system is understood. The path continues between woods and fields, and becomes a metalled road. Where the road makes a dip, soon after a small vineyard on right, turn right (B) on to a chalky track, which begins to climb among wide, airy fields.

At each of three junctions, choose the left fork, as the waymarks direct. The third turn is on to another by-road. Take care crossing the busy Chinon road, then continue until a waymarked track to the right leads you up to a ruined tower. From here there is a dramatic view across the junction of the dainty Vienne and the swollen Loire, more like an inundation than a river. Beyond the confluence is the Chinon nuclear power station, also

dramatic in its way, belching up its own perpetual thundercloud visible from 20 miles away.

A stepped lane leads down into Candes, a village worth exploring, carved half in and half out of chalk outcrops, with steep secret alleyways down to fishing punts which tug at their moorings in the current. The church, seriously fortified, appears outwardly as squat and spunky as a cairn terrier. Inside, it opens up surprisingly into a tall grove of pale columns, with sculptures that escaped the vandals — an Angevin church like Fontevraud, but one with its spirit still intact.

The village is too private even to offer a satisfactory café for a halfway rest. The rather basic "Rendezvous des Pêcheurs" (turn right along busy main road) is squeezed between the river and the petrol pumps.

To avoid the tedium of retracing your steps, climb the cobbled alley back to the GR3, but only to leave it almost at once. From the village war memorial, turn left past a red-and-white striped gateway of stone and brick — grand portal to a modest house — up a hill shaded by trees (rue Trochet). Where three roads diverge under a grey iron Calvaire, take the middle branch. This leads back across the D751 to points B and A. But this time carry straight on at A, down through woods to a metalled way (GR3 again), which leads back to Fontevraud across fields dominated by the abbey's noble profile.

● Route: 10km, three hours, IGN ref 1723. See *Walks in the Loire Valley* pp101-3 (free "What to read"). Details of footpaths from town information offices and Touraine Footpaths Committee (Place de la Gare, 37000 Tours).

● The essential guide is the green Michelin *Châteaux of the Loire* (1985), more detailed than the *Blue Guide to France* (there is no *Blue Guide* devoted to the region). The *Berlitz France: Loire Valley* (£1.95) is compact and practical, and the *Insight Loire Valley* (£11.95) is one of those guides so sumptuously illustrated that they risk leaving the traveller vaguely disappointed with the place itself.

● *Walks in the Loire Valley*, (Footpaths of Europe series, Robinson McCann, £11.95), English

WHAT TO READ

adaptation of French *Topoguide* handbooks to long-distance footpaths along 675km of the Loire: maps, routes, sights and accommodation well set out, but for circular walks you must improvise.

● *A Little Tour in France* by Henry James (Penguin, £6.99): The great American francophile, footloose and slightly roughing it among the châteaux in 1882. Mellifluous, observant, and thoroughly enjoying himself in the region, he trimly

hits off the atmosphere and historical vibrations of a town or a château.

● *Châteaux of the Loire* by Marcus Binney (Architectural Guides for Travellers, Viking, £14.99): Exploring on the beaten track and off it, with a discriminating eye for neglected 19th-century period.

● *Le Grand Meaulnes*, by Alain-Fournier (Penguin, £4.99): Haunting legend of the desolate Sologne just before 1914: trackless fens, uncanny festivities, teenage passions to match *Cyrano de Bergerac*. One of the great bicycling novels.

WHEN TO GO

THE weather in the Loire valley is not extreme at any time of the year: early summer and autumn can be beautiful and are far less crowded than high summer. Most châteaux open all year round, with shorter hours after September. Events and festivals go on all summer, ranging from the music festival in the Grange de Meslay (the barn, near Tours) early July, to the contests for motor cycles and cars at Le Mans (April, May and June). The medieval carnival at Chinon (August 1-3), and the son et lumière with pageant at Le Lude (June to late August) are said to be the best of their kind. Music festivals at Orléans and Sully-sur-Loire in July.

HOW TO GET THERE

THE Loire is an easy day's drive from the western Channel ports, or a pleasant stopping point on journeys further south. By air, Tours is the most central point of entry, with Nantes and Poitiers as alternatives with direct flights from the UK. Charles de Gaulle airport is two to three hours' drive away. The TGV brings Tours within 55 minutes of Paris (Montparnasse; coach link with CDG airport).

● *George Hill flew by TAT European Airlines as a guest of Loire Valley Promotion, a regional consortium (41007 Blois Cedex: 54 44 37 60). Other facilities from Western Loire Tourist Board (081-392 1580). Car courtesy of Air France Holidays (081-758 0059).*

LOIRE VALLEY

George Hill finds centuries of history carved into the chalky stone of the Loire, where châteaux dot the landscape and the region's prosperity flows with France's longest river

Chalk and cheese: not the whole story, of course, but they make a start towards expressing what is distinctive and delightful about the Loire valley. The chalk and cheese of the region could be mistaken for one another at a glance. But this is not a matter of mere black-board chalk, nor merely of cow's cheese.

The unforgettable common component of buildings in the region, grand or humble, is a snow-white stone, a kind of transfigured chalk called *tuffa*, or *tuffstone*. It is soft enough to scratch with a fingernail, but so fine-grained that it can resist the weather for centuries.

The region's characteristic cheeses are markedly similar to the stone in colour and texture, though they do not keep so well. The best of them derive not from the statuesque white Charentais cattle that stand in the meadows along the Loire like figures carved from *tuffa*, but from restless brown goats, which prosper best upstream near Sancerre and downstream around St-Maure.

The white stone, and the flint associated with it, are major components in the complex mix of chemistry that nourishes a host of vineyards along the luxuriant middle stretch of the river. Easily carved out into castles or catacombs, the *tuffa* has helped to shape the history, husbandry and, allegedly, the psychology of Touraine.

The region was so luscious that it was constantly quarrelled over: Romans against Gauls, English against French, Catholics against Huguenots. Generations of warlords stalked it out with white slit-eyed donjons, which would have seemed grim had they been carved from less pristine material. As the stone was quarried out, honeycombs of underground chambers were created, ideal for wine vaults or for defence. In times of conflict, the local people sensibly withdrew into their labyrinthine like troglodytes, lunging out in the darkness at any marauders rash enough to follow.

Frustrated by these tactics, their neighbours declared that the people of Touraine were lazy and cowardly. These proverbial slanders still rankle today. I have not noticed that they are any likelier than other people to jump on a chair at the sight of a mouse, but I do have an impression of a more comfortable and easy-going outlook than in some other parts of France. A few families still live in caves (they can be comfortable, though inclined to be damp).

No less than the *tuffa*, the river determines the character of the region. The Loire is greater than the territory conventionally identified with it, for it is France's longest river, and dominates a tract of land comparable in extent to England south of the Thames, and as various. It rises high in the Massif Central and skirts around the mountains, before flowing past the upland vineyards around Sancerre and Pouilly.

Only after this does it enter the familiar domain of the white châteaux, as it winds for 150 miles from Gien to Angers. The region under its influence here is at least 80 miles wide, from Le Mans to Loches. This phase ends at Angers — Shakespeare's "black Angers" — a balefully dark castle marking the point where the chalk country gives

way to slate. The river flows on in a changed mood for another 80 miles, as it feels the approach of the sea.

The valley of châteaux has a character that ranges from the balmy sweetness of tributaries such as the Vienne and the Loir (the other Loir, masculine in gender where the Loire is feminine, but far gentler than its counterpart), to the relatively desolate landscape of marshes, sand and pine trees called the Sologne, south of the hunting forest of Chambord. Presidents of France still come to Chambord to hunt deer and wild boar, as kings of France did before them, while the citizenry have the hunting rights tightly held up throughout the Sologne.

In general it is graceful, easy country, without any great drama. The river supplies the drama. It can veer unpredictably between drought and spate. With its quicksands it

them, for at this time they spent more time on the Loire than they did in Paris. The first exhalation of the Renaissance arrived in France in the Loire valley, and a string of châteaux embodies the transition from the old ideas to the new. Their fine galleries were often full of whispers of intrigue and treachery, for it was also a period of savage religious wars, during which France was ruled by some of the most repellent characters ever to wear a crown.

Fantastically pinnacled in glittering Angers slate, reflected in sleepy green moats, and so white that their masonry can seem to have an internal source of light shining through the lichen of centuries, they are among the most beguiling palaces ever raised. One of them, Chenonceaux, should figure on any shortlist of the most delightful buildings on Earth. Blois, Azay-le-Rideau, Amboise, Loches and a dozen others are almost as magical, each one with a distinct personality.

Once the building habit was set, it continued into the 18th and 19th centuries. On a strictly functional view, the region is now distinctly over-châteaued. The former residences of the gilded classes are so thickly scattered that on a day's drive one may easily see a dozen or more, out of several hundred. Apart from the most famous, many lesser ones are also open to the public. Others have become hotels, and some, though private homes, seek to make ends meet by letting rooms on a *chambre d'hôte* (bed and breakfast) basis. These last represent a rich lucky dip for visitors wishing to encounter France and the French.

The regional cuisine is not so much provincial as *interprovincial*: a case can be made out for regarding the valley as the birthplace of French haute cuisine, for Catherine de' Medici summoned chefs there from Florence in the 16th century to refine the practices of the royal kitchens. The resources at hand, from downstream and upstream, include the Atlantic *homard* and *langoustine*, river fish such as pike, eel and zander, game from the Sologne, mushrooms from the caves, asparagus, and fruit such as plums and melons.

Good food and accommodation are available at all standards, and well advertised. The French are expert at providing attractive camp sites and golf clubs and water-sport centres (*plans d'eau*). The roads are lined with vineyards advertising wine tastings, workshops for *vannerie* and *falence* (basketwork and pottery), and mushroom farms offering tours through the cool catacombs.

The châteaux, too, have bestirred themselves in recent years to improve their formerly forbidding style of presentation, by extending opening hours and allowing visitors to explore for themselves, instead of having to endure regimented guided visits. *Son et lumière* and other shows are widespread. The most striking difference between the major châteaux and British country houses used to be that successive revolutions had left the French houses depressingly empty of furnishings. In many cases, efforts to fill the echoing halls with appropriate woodwork and tapestries

The art of leisure: capturing

Rock solid: unusual houses th

A way with cards: the best che

are now beginning to succeed. As in any heavily visited and heavily promoted region, it is wise to avoid the crowds and the clichés. Chateau fatigue? is a painful mental inflammation. Its symptom is an irresistible urge to beat the head against the leaded casements on being faced with yet another castellated fireplace big enough to stall a cow in, richly adorned with carved salamanders, porcupines, or diapers of knots and crinoids or, above all, with Francis I's royal nose in profile. The châteaux are all different, but not as different as all that.

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PROPERTY

Almost too big to buy

Property prices in the Loire are low and unlikely to rise because of its cool, damp climate. This was once, however, the most aristocratic part of France, and châteaux in varying stages of dilapidation are plentiful.

The French landed gentry are now facing the same problems that their British counterparts faced in their stately homes 30 years ago. In many cases the land surrounding a château has been sold off to local farmers, and finally the house has had to be sold, often to a foreign investor.

Beyond a 70-mile radius from Paris there is a growing châteaux mountain. Most sell for

less than £250,000, because of the wealth tax imposed on the value of an estate. You can still buy a run-down château, with 20 rooms, a moat and a few acres of parkland, for as little as £130,000. But for a habitable home you would need to spend at least £200,000.

There are about 50,000 grand châteaux in France, many of them in a state of decay — charming but damp, draughty and a constant drain on the bank balance. It is not difficult to understand why the young French are deserting their ancestral homes for small, centrally heated flats in Paris. Medieval stone walls, vaulted ceilings, flagged floors and huge



Ageing gracefully: this turreted château on 11½ acres of pa

bedrooms are hardly cosy, and grand staircases and vaulted ceilings cost a fortune to heat.

A château can be anything from a large country house to a fortified castle. The most valuable are those built before the end of the 17th century. Most are found in northern and central France, particularly in

the Loire, where prices are half those further south in the Dordogne.

A château in the Loire can cost from £135,000 to £600,000, although most would require another £100,000 spent on repairs and redecoration. A smaller *gentilhomme* (nobleman's house), with three recep-

FREE

TIMES

community & business

French flair on a cottage scale

Francesca Greenoak wanders through the spectacular delights of an unusual 'English country garden' in the byways of northern France

Nothing could be further from the stereotype of French château garden statuary and formal parterres than Les Jardins de Cotellet at Derchigny-Graincourt, a village about seven kilometres northeast of Dieppe. Here Frederic and Catherine Cotellet have created a garden and nursery of hardy plants, unusual shrubs and trees in a style which we would recognise as characteristically English.

The Cotellets have created the garden over the past 20 years (opening to the public for the past ten), building layer upon layer of distinctive plants, experimenting, and using the tonalities and textures of flowers and leaves with the freedom and fluidity of an oil painting.

There are revelations of white with rose-pink carmine and silvers; early *Clematis montana* "Elizabeth" curling sweetly up into a creamy-white viburnum "Lanarth".

The sturdy hydrangea "Annabel" (*H. arborescens*) and two paniculata types, "Kyushu" and "Unique", take the cream-white shrubs into autumn, while the delightful oak-leaved hydrangea opens white and turns softly to pink as September approaches.

Around and under the shrubs, the colours of the hardy perennials echo and vibrate: misty *Chaerophyllum roseum* (which looks like a delectable cow parsley), the small bright pink soapwort (*Saponaria ocmoides*), ruby bistorts (*Persicaria bistorta*), and the darker pink-purple of a variety of loosestrife called "Firecandle" (*Lythrum salicaria* "Feuerkerze").

There are blues and purples in every degree: azure *Perovskia atriplicifolia* "Blue Spire", its glau-

ous leaves beside the woolly blue-silver of the large-leaved *Salvia argentea*. The foliage of lamb-ears "Silver Carpet" (*Stachys byzantina*), which does not flower, glimmers demurely in the front of a border; its taller cousin, "Cotton Boll", is set further back.

Elsewhere, golds take on the theme. A lovely shrub with dainty currant-like foliage, *Physocarpus opulifolius* "Dart's Gold", is an acid-soil plant I see frequently in French gardens and flower arrangements. Creamy-gold *Hosta albopicta* rises and spreads within a halo of the fussy filigree foliage of the little cypress-leaved *Euphorbia*.

I was thrilled to see the two species day-lilies I like best, the yellow *Femurcallis flava* and orange *H. fulva*, both with a sweet scent, which vanished when the breeders started to produce the brilliant hybrids, none to my mind as attractive as the originals.

There is a most beautiful *Trollius* ("superbe variété, très rare", says Mme Cotellet), but her true favourites are the hardy geraniums, because of their floweriness and an obliging ease of growth.

There are 43 geraniums in the Cotellet catalogue. All are represented in the garden, so you can see the condition they like (sunny for the bright *sanguineum* and for its paler pink and white varieties, shaded for the woodland species, such as *nodosum* and *syriacum*).

The developing French interest in distinctive hardy plants is superbly illustrated in the Cotellets' small, densely packed and beautifully orchestrated family garden. Just the sight of it made me itch to get to work with some new planting on my own patch.



Gardening triumph: Frederic and Catherine Cotellet in their beautiful country garden near Dieppe

BEST BUYS

IT IS better to buy certain plants when they are in flower, so that you can be sure you have a colour and form you really like. The species *Clematis viticella*, with its small, nodding, purple flowers, is variable, but it's one of the prettiest and worth seeking out. Named varieties are a little more open-flowered: "Minuet" is more open-flowered with deep-pink veining and edges to the flowers; "Etoile Violette" has lots of wide-open flowers. For a climber that flowers in May (until September), try the hybrid "Marie Boisselot".



Clematis "Marie Boisselot"

WEEKEND TIPS

- Take cuttings from plumbago and fuchsia.
- Tie in shoots of climbing plants.
- Plant and divide autumn-flowering bulbs such as nerines, colchicums, and sternbergia.
- Stake tomato plants and remove side shoots.
- Keep picking peas and beans to promote continuous cropping.
- Prune shrub roses (except for those producing decorative hips).
- Sow a quick-growing carrot variety, such as Early Nantes.

MY PERFECT WEEKEND

BARBARA TAYLOR BRADFORD

Novelist



Where would you go? Paris, my favourite city. I love it at any time of the year but usually go in the summer.

How would you get there? By the Air France Concorde that leaves New York, where I live, at 1pm and gets in around 10pm.

Who would be your perfect companion? My husband, Robert Bradford.

Where would you stay? At the Plaza Athénée, on avenue Montaigne, where we always stay. It's a beautiful hotel, comfortable and convenient. I've grown all over the walls and the birds living in it sing outside the bedroom windows early in the morning. In summer, an interior courtyard becomes a pretty outdoor restaurant.

What essential piece of clothing would you take? I can't really narrow it down to one piece; when I go away I try to co-ordinate my wardrobe. I'd travel in a dark trouser suit, probably a navy blue one in summer. I'd pack some silk shirts, a skirt and a silk dress that matched the suit jacket; so I'd have two daytime outfits and a dress for Saturday night.

What would you have to eat? We love bistro food: pâté, grilled fish with potatoes, fries, and green salads with vinaigrette. In summer there would be asparagus and artichokes, too.

What would you have to drink? Dom Pérignon champagne as an aperitif, and then either a good red wine - my husband likes Montrachet - or white with dinner.

What would you read? I'm fascinated by Napoleon, and would take Napoleon, by Vincent Cronin, which is the best biography I've ever found of him; I like to dip into it.

What music would you listen to? Anything by Mozart. I don't think we'd go to any concerts in Paris; we usually do the concerts when we go to Vienna or Berlin.

What would you watch on television? Ted Turner's CNN International 24-hour news service on satellite television. My husband would watch some of the local programmes; he grew up in France and speaks French.

What luxury would you take? The weekend would be a luxury.

What piece of art would you like to have there? Any painting by Renoir. I don't have a favourite, although I particularly like his paintings of women and children and his wonderful gardens.

Who would be your most welcome guest? We have a lot of friends in Paris because we lived there in the late 1960s and early 1970s, when my husband was running a film company. Any of our French, English or American friends would be welcome.

What newspapers or journals would you read? The *International Herald Tribune* and some fashion magazines, such as *French Vogue*.

What three things would you leave behind? My dog Gemmy, any book manuscript I'm working on, and my worries.

What three things would you most like to do? Go to Malmaison, the house where Napoleon and Josephine lived. Visit the Marché aux Puces Saint Ouen, the huge antiques market. Go to La Tour d'Argent, a restaurant famous for its duck; it has stunning views of the Seine.

What souvenir would you bring home? An antique perfume bottle to add to my collection.

What would you like to find when you got home? That Gemmy and my two housekeepers, Elisa and Esther, were all right.

Interview by Rosanna Greenstreet

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Drinker-friendly: Paul Bowker of Christie's wine department dispels the "intimidation factor"

Lots of vintage fun

In the 1980s the best wine-growing regions of France produced exceptional vintages in record volumes. The demand was such that sellers dominated the market for most of the decade, and pushed prices up and up.

Today buyers enjoy the upper hand, making the most of the best opportunity in ten years to buy decent wine at reasonable prices. And fortunately, there are still large quantities of good quality 1980s wine coming on the market.

The difficulty for most private buyers is locating these new "bargain" stocks before the retail trade moves in. The answer is remarkably simple. Try buying your wine at auction and cut out the middleman's mark-up. Serious collectors and readers have profited by using auctions for more than 200 years, but now growing numbers of private purchasers are getting in on the act.

"There are, without doubt, a lot of new people coming through the auction rooms now, especially younger people," says Serena Sutcliffe, head of Sotheby's wine department. "Ten years ago these buyers might have thought that buying at auction was too grand for them. But they've realised there are masses of bargains to be had."

Paul Bowker, deputy director of Christie's wine department, believes that there is still an "intimidation factor" that prevents many first-time buyers from attending auctions. "Ordinary members of the public tend to read reports in the press of some exceptional, rare wines being sold for perhaps £1,000 a bottle, but remain unaware that in most sales most of the wine sold averages between £7 and £10 a bottle."

The first growth (1er cru classé) wines from the Bordeaux region's great châteaux, Lafite, Latour and Mouton Rothschild plus a dozen or so others, remain unsurpassed as

Private buyers are discovering the pleasure of bidding for wine at auctions

the world's greatest wines. The best bargains are to be found among the young wines of Bordeaux, from the 1979-1987 vintages. Most beginners start by investing in the less expensive fourth and fifth class growths and the *cru bourgeois* wines (from a sort of second-division chateau, but still a very good quality wine).

Some auctions include selections of vintage port or rare old Scotch whiskies. Notice of forthcoming sales and catalogues, which cost on average £5, are available on application from each auction house. Once in possession of a catalogue, any individual can become an absentee bidder and join the auction with a "commission bid". Many private buyers prefer to use this method, and in some sales up to 50 per cent of the wine is sold to these home-based speculators.

To place a commission bid, make a selection from the catalogue — each lot is described and numbered and is always followed by an estimate of what it is likely to fetch in the sale — and phone or fax your top bid.

Matthew Smith, head of the wine department at Bonhams, urges buyers to be bold. "Part of the fun is to experience new sensations and broaden the palate. I believe that every wine, from the humblest supermarket plonk to the truly great vintages, has a role to play."

"In general, though, I would go for a *petit chateau* or *cru bourgeois*, something like a four or five-year-old Chateau Cissac or a Chateau de St. Pe. You could probably secure a

dozen bottles of St. Pe 1985 for as little as £50. Also some of the white burgundy. The 1986-9 season, for example, produced some wonderful chablis that is drinkable now and represents remarkable value."

Mr Bowker cites the 1982 vintage again. "I would tip a *cru bourgeois*, Chateau Chasse-Spleen. To my mind this should be a class-growth chateau, but it isn't, and you can expect to pay about £12 a bottle for the 1982, which makes an interesting comparison with the Mouton Rothschild of the same vintage which would make between £800 and £1,000 a dozen at auction."

There are five basic rules for a novice bidder:

● Get hold of the sale catalogue as far in advance of the auction as possible and take time to study it dispassionately.

● Make a note of the estimate price and try to avoid lots with a small dagger in the margin (indicating that value-added tax is payable at 17.5 per cent, no dagger, no VAT).

● Before setting out, write down the amount you are prepared to bid to and resolve to go no higher.

● Before the auction take advice from a member of the wine department about your selected lot. Find out as much as you can about its condition, how it has been kept and so on.

● Best of all, attend the pre-sale tasting. Production of the catalogue will normally secure entry. After all, in the final analysis, your tastebuds are your true guide.

GRAHAM BALL

Christie's Wine Department, King Street, London SW1 0PT (071-839 9060). Next sale July 16, end of season sale July 30. Sotheby's Wine Department, 100, South Molton Street, London W1P 0LH (071-734 3287). Next sale July 14. Bonhams Wine Department, Montpelier Street, Knightsbridge, London SW7 0BT (071-584 9161). Next sale, September.

Nicole Swengley writes on stylish stationery from Bond Street

Lauren Bacall shops here, so do Frank Sinatra, Meryl Streep, Dustin Hoffman, Jack Nicholson and Ronald Reagan. However, the rich and famous are not the only people who buy their stationery at Smythson of Bond Street. Anybody who likes to make his or her mark — literally — on their personal correspondence shops here.

Propositions, threats, invitations and proposals have been issued in style since the business was established in 1887, and the company retains its seal of royal approval by supplying the Queen with stationery.

Smythson works hard at retaining the qualities for which it is famous — personal service, elegant surroundings and high standards of workmanship. Yet it is also responding to today's retailing demands by revamping its shop interior and introducing up-beat new products to its range.

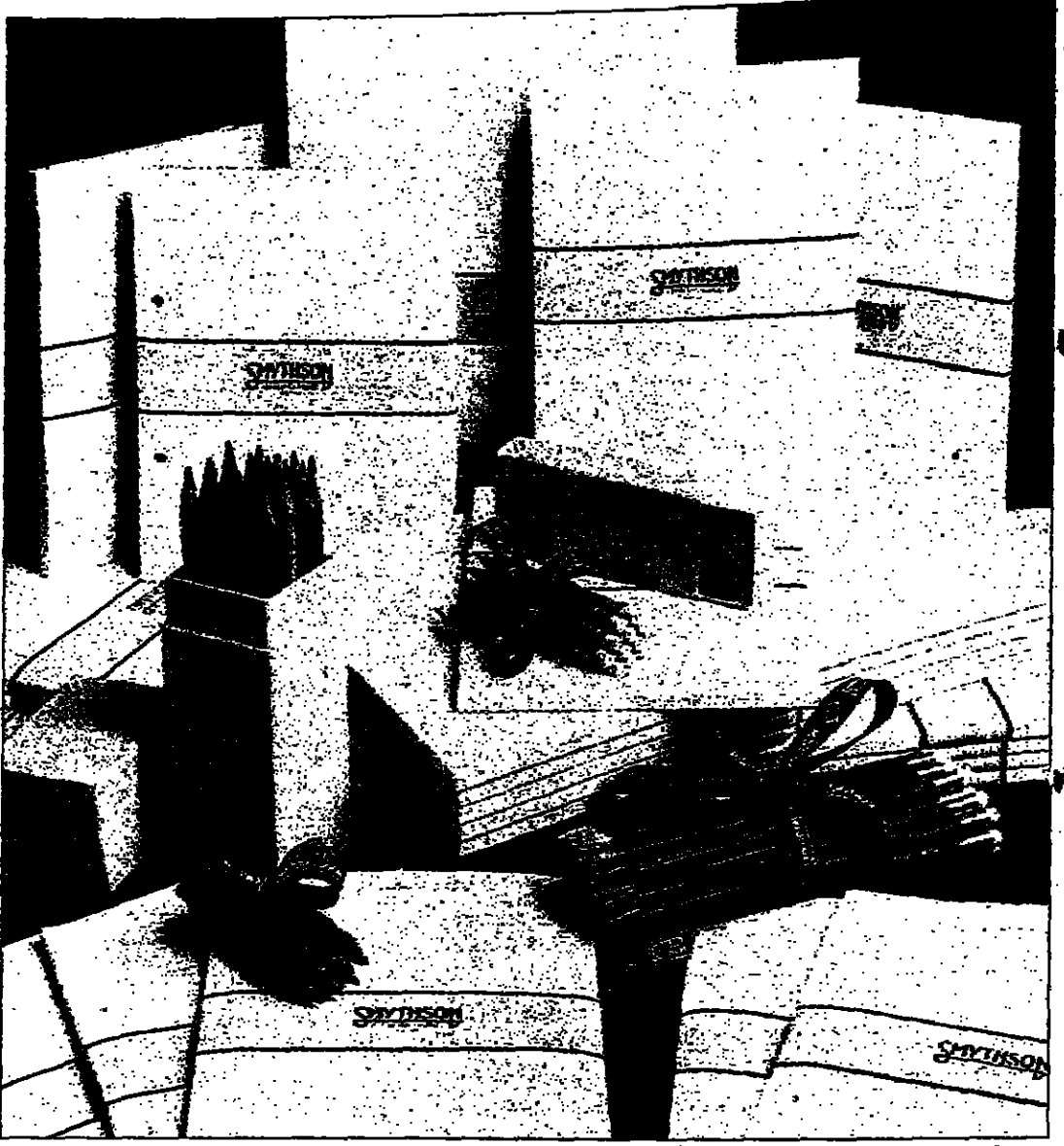
Although all kinds of weaves, colours and sizes appeal to modern tastes, traditional Smythson blue remains the most popular writing paper and is distinguished, like all Smythson papers, by an exclusive watermark.

In the late 1880s, Frank Smythson, the company's founder, introduced the first "portable" diary — an innovative, quarter-inch-thick volume containing blue leatherweight paper rather than conventional thick white pages. These days, the shop stocks an unrivalled choice of diaries in various colours and sizes.

The company has been part of the John Menzies Group since the early 1960s, but the acquisition never diminished the cachet of shopping at Smythson, as the sympathetic new owners refrained from interfering with the shop's characteristic image.

Smythson's chairman, Dermot Jenkins, who is a board member of John Menzies, explains that consumer demand rather than a management directive has triggered the recent changes. "It's all very well being a traditional business, but we felt that Smythson was becoming too much of a well-kept secret," he says.

Moving with the times has meant redesigning the interior of



Colourful wording: Smythson's range includes writing paper and envelopes in every conceivable colour

the shop in the style of an English country-house library. Hand-made cabinets with brass fittings display leather-bound blank-page books, diaries, picture frames and writing-cases, while tapestry-covered chairs, table lamps and library steps add to the unhurried air of a comfortable reading room. This new layout has also trebled the shop's selling space.

"In the past Smythson had a slightly forbidding image," Mr Jenkins says. "The old interior was rather stark for the kind of stationery, leather goods and diaries we sell. People used to take a quick look inside and leave. Now they are happy to browse."

One of the best new lines is the introduction of the Bijou range of

miniature accessories, which is proving as popular as it was in the 1930s. Leather-covered items such as travel mirrors and earring boxes — all less than 3in long — come in seven different colours and cost between £6 and £40.

Colourful plain or hand-bordered writing paper, with matching tissue-lined envelopes, comes in every imaginable shade and costs from £7.50 to £25.95 for ten sheets.

The company prides itself on meeting unusual requests, such as hand-engraved visiting cards printed from copperplate for a customer's dog, party invitations for a cat's birthday, and a press-cuttings book for a submarine.

Perhaps the most chic special

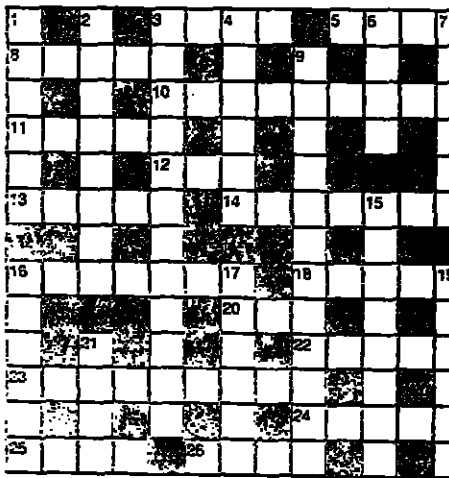
order has been for hand-bordered writing paper and tissue-lined envelopes in beige and burgundy, produced for a special stationery compartment built into a turbo-charged Bentley. The beige matched the hide upholstery and the burgundy was mixed to complement the coachwork.

As Mr Jenkins says: "There aren't many places you can go in London where you can walk in and ask for the most outrageous things to be made."

● Smythson of Bond Street, 44 New Bond Street, London W1 (071-620-8558). Mail order catalogue available. Shop within a shop at Harvey Nichols, Knightsbridge, London SW1 (071-253 5000).

Telephone 071 481 4000

CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 2844



ACROSS: 3 Toss (4); 5 Rubble container (4); 6 Grand instrument (5); 9 Naked (9); 11 North Face mountain (5); 12 Spreading clock (5); 13 US Civil War free states (5); 14 Show eagerness (5); 15 Devoured greedily (7); 16 Command (5); 20 Game judge (5); 21 Verdict panel member (5); 22 Madras state (5); 24 Darknes (5).

DOWN: 1 Humour (6); 2 Australian leaper (8); 3 US Independence Day (6,2,4); 4 Receipts (6); 6 German chancellor (4); 7 Canoe blade (6); 8 Elton celebrations day (6,2,4); 10 Too young (5,2); 16 Grab (6); 17 Night fantasies (6); 19 Uncommon taking (6); 21 Mosque leader (4).

SOLUTIONS TO NO 2843: ACROSS: 1 Aconit 5 Sided 8 Lip 9 Embryo 12 Embryo 11 Face 12 Holiday 14 Method 15 Bury 16 Know best 18 Bury 19 Prono 21 Ex-judo 22 Pin 23 Sabre 24 Distal. DOWN: 1 2 Comrade in arms 3 Borne show 4 Sheathed 5 Spell 6 Duo 7 Daddy long legs 13 Dark Blues 15 Burend 17 Elbow 20 Nub.

By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent
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Send your answer on a postcard with your name and address to: The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 6RN. The first three correct answers drawn on Thursday next week will win a Batsford chess book. The answer and the winners will be printed in The Times on the following Saturday.

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IN THE MATTER OF LONDON & LOMBARD STREET PLC
AND
IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Petition was presented to the High Court of Justice for the winding up of the said company on 25th June 1992. The Petition was presented by the Official Receiver of the said company. The Petition was presented by the Official Receiver of the said company. The Petition was presented by the Official Receiver of the said company.

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STEPHEN Another Year and still...
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STEPHEN Another Year and still...
[Text about birthday wishes]

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[Text about birthday wishes]

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